

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

REAPPORTIONMENT PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 12, 2001

10:00 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

ROOM 212, KNOTT BUILDING

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

REPORTED BY:

KRISTEN L. BENTLEY, COURT REPORTER

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE 2 SENATOR DANIEL WEBSTER 3 SENATOR JOHN F. LAURENT, JR. 4 SENATOR GINNY BROWN-WAITE 5 SENATOR LISA CARLTON 6 SENATOR CHARLIE CLARY 7 SENATOR LEE CONSTANTINE 8 SENATOR ANNA P. COWIN 9 SENATOR MANDY DAWSON 10 SENATOR BUDDY DYER 11 SENATOR BETTY HOLZENDORF 12 SENATOR DARYL JONES 13 SENATOR RON KLEIN 14 SENATOR AL LAWSON, JR. 15 SENATOR LES MILLER, JR. 16 SENATOR RICHARD MITCHELL 17 SENATOR DEBBY SANDERSON 18 SENATOR BURT L. SAUNDERS 19 SENATOR JIM SEBESTA 20 SENATOR ROD SMITH 21 SENATOR DONALD SULLIVAN, M.D. 22 SENATOR J. ALEX VILLALOBOS 23 SENATOR DEBBIE WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ 24 REPRESENTATIVE RANDY BALL 25 REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNIE BYRD 26 REPRESENTATIVE LARRY CROW 27 REPRESENTATIVE JOYCE CUSACK 28 REPRESENTATIVE DON DAVIS 29 REPRESENTATIVE MARIO DIAZ-BALART 30 REPRESENTATIVE PAULA BONO DOCKERY 31 REPRESENTATIVE TERRY FIELDS 32 REPRESENTATIVE MARK FLANAGAN 33 REPRESENTATIVE DUDLEY GOODLETTE 34 REPRESENTATIVE WILL KENDRICK 35 REPRESENTATIVE BEV KILMER 36 REPRESENTATIVE JEFFREY KOTTKAMP 37 REPRESENTATIVE BRUCE KYLE 38 REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD MACHEK 39 REPRESENTATIVE CONNIE MACK 40 REPRESENTATIVE MATT MEADOWS 41 REPRESENTATIVE DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGAL 42 REPRESENTATIVE SANDRA MURMAN 43 REPRESENTATIVE MITCH NEEDELMAN 44 REPRESENTATIVE CURTIS RICHARDSON 45 REPRESENTATIVE TIM RYAN 46 REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS SMITH 47 REPRESENTATIVE ELEANOR SOBEL 48 REPRESENTATIVE MARK WEISSMAN 49 REPRESENTATIVE DOUG WILES</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS 2 SENATOR WEBSTER: Good morning, members and 3 legislature. My name is Daniel Webster. I'm a Senator 4 from District 12 and chairman of the Senate Redistricting 5 Committee. It's my pleasure to welcome you today to this 6 public hearing. 7 Representatives and senators are here to listen to the 8 residents of this area and consider your input in this very 9 important process. Since these joint meetings -- since 10 these are joint meetings, we divided up our 11 responsibilities throughout the many public hearings, 20 to 12 be exact, that will take place throughout the state in the 13 next few weeks. It's my pleasure to introduce at this time 14 Representative Johnnie Byrd who is chairman of the House 15 Procedural and Redistricting Council. He will preside over 16 today's hearing. 17 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am 18 Johnny Byrd, Representative from Plant City, House District 19 62 and chairman of the Procedural and Redistricting 20 Council. It's also my pleasure to welcome the members and 21 the public to this public hearing, 1 of 20, that we will 22 hold throughout the fall. 23 First, I want to explain for the public and the 24 members our intended procedure to use throughout today and 25 throughout the public meetings. This is a public, a public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE FEDERICA WILSON 2 REPRESENTATIVE ROGER WISHNER 3 REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH SPRATT 4 REPRESENTATIVE DONNA CLARKE 5 REPRESENTATIVE DENISE E. LEE 6 REPRESENTATIVE JERRY MELVIN 7 REPRESENTATIVE DWIGHT STANSEL 8 REPRESENTATIVE LORANNE AUSLEY 9 REPRESENTATIVE ARTHENIA JOYNER 10 REPRESENTATIVE EDWARD BULLARD 11 REPRESENTATIVE MIKE FASANO 12 REPRESENTATIVE MIKE HOGAN 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 hearing, the sole and only purpose of which is to hear from 2 the public, our constituency on matters of redistricting. 3 It's not a committee meeting. We will not be taking 4 motions, we will not be undertaking any type of legislative 5 action in this or any subsequent hearings. Instead, this 6 is the people's forum, the public's forum where we will 7 have the opportunity to receive citizen input about their 8 electoral districts. 9 It's not the time for legislative debate. We have 10 committee meetings this fall. We have member bills, 11 amendments, Florida abate ahead. All the representatives 12 and senators will have numerous opportunities in subsequent 13 committee meetings and on the floor to debate the great 14 issues of the day. Today, however, is for our 15 constituents. We must not diminish their voice by taking 16 up time, precious time, that they have today to give us 17 their input. 18 Following my remarks, the plan would be to have the 19 legal counsel give a general overview of legal 20 considerations and redistricting. Then we have our staff 21 available and they will provide some specific information 22 about the census results in the state as well as this 23 region. The rest of the time is reserved for the citizens 24 for public input. 25 Now every ten years after completion of the updated</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 census, the Constitution requires that the Florida 2 legislature redraw boundaries of all districts of the state 3 of Florida for the Florida House, for the Florida Senate, 4 and for Florida's congressional districts. The legislature 5 will take up this task in the next legislative session 6 which begins on January the 22nd, 2002.</p> <p>7 The districts we draw will first be used in the 8 November 2002 elections. Redistricting is a central 9 element of our Representative democracy. We take this on 10 with humility and due regard for the importance and 11 difficulty of the job. We are committed that the process 12 will be fair, the process will be open, and the process 13 will be inclusive. These public hearings represent a 14 critical first step in the process.</p> <p>15 We appreciate that we're doing the work of the people 16 and we want to hear from you and help you participate in a 17 meaningful way. To encourage public participation Speaker 18 Tom Feeney and Senate President John McKay have scheduled 19 these 20 informal public meetings. The first today and the 20 last on October the 16th in Panama City, Florida. The 21 hearings will be taped so that they will be made available 22 to all members of the legislature.</p> <p>23 The House and Senate have also designed web sites as a 24 tool for public input and will broadcast select hearings on 25 Florida's public television stations. The web addresses</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 people as possible, we will limit the public comments to 2 four minutes each. However, those comments can certainly 3 be supplemented by written submissions. On behalf of House 4 Speaker Tom Feeney and Senate President John McKay and the 5 members of the Florida legislature, I look forward to 6 working with all of you on this historic and important 7 task.</p> <p>8 At this time I will recognize former member of the 9 Florida House of Representatives, Miguel Degrandy, 10 (phonetic) who is serving as our lead legal counsel. You 11 are recognized, former Representative Degrandy, and lead 12 legal counsel.</p> <p>13 MR. DEGRANDY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to 14 introduce my colleague, George Meros, who will make our 15 presentation today.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Excuse me, Mr. Meros. Senator?</p> <p>17 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: I can't get the mike to work, but 18 I don't need it. Mr. Chairman, before we get to 19 Mr. Degrandy and the legal aspects, I wanted to know -- I 20 want to know have we set up the rules for how the public 21 will speak and whether or not we're going to have any 22 response to them as they speak. I'm concerned about the 23 public not the legal people. I want to know how we're 24 going to get their testimony in and their comments and 25 whether or not we're going to be able to use that and when</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 for the House and Senate legislative redistricting are 2 available at the sign-in table in the back. The link will 3 also be available from the Florida legislative web site.</p> <p>4 The redistricting plan for the State, House, and 5 Senate will be passed in the form of a joint resolution 6 which will not be subject to the Governor's approval or 7 veto but will be reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court. 8 The plan determining congressional districts will not be 9 reviewed by the Supreme Court but will be subject to the 10 Governor's approval or veto. I encourage everyone to 11 carefully review the 2000 census. It is the essential 12 building block on which Florida's redistricting plans will 13 be built. The United States census web site is also 14 available at the sign-in table in the back.</p> <p>15 We're here to listen and consider the public's voice. 16 We encourage each member of the public to testify and to 17 help us craft your legislative districts. We also 18 encourage written submissions in addition to the testimony 19 during the public hearing. Everyone who wishes to speak 20 must make sure to complete a speaker's card available in 21 the back, that is the only way we will know who wishes to 22 speak, and after the hearing, who actually spoke to the 23 hearing. Again, speaker cards are available on the table 24 in the back.</p> <p>25 In addition, because we want to hear from as many</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 we begin to deliberate in terms of this process because 2 they don't have any information at this point relative 3 to -- other than just addressing us.</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Senator, thank you very much. 5 That's the whole purpose of why we're here today, is to 6 hear from the public. And we want to make sure that 7 everyone who wishes to be heard is heard. So as we 8 typically do in our legislative committees, we'll limit the 9 speakers to four minutes and they can supplement their 10 comments in writing.</p> <p>11 The hearings are being taped and we will make those 12 available to the legislature, you know, after those tapes 13 are completed.</p> <p>14 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: As you know, Mr. Chairman, the 15 next meeting is in Duval County and constituents are asking 16 questions relative to what kind of information are they 17 supposed to present because we have not had a meeting of 18 ourselves to discuss how we want to handle these hearings 19 around the state. So what my constituents are asking, the 20 question, is what information do they bring here and what 21 are they talking about. And I have five counties that have 22 to be represented in Duval County.</p> <p>23 So they need some -- I need some direction to tell 24 them when they come to the hearing, Here are the kinds of 25 things that you need to say and we don't have any</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 information to convey those concerns to them.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Well, we have a staff in both</p> <p>3 the House and Senate Redistricting Committees that are your</p> <p>4 staff, Senator, and they are available to help you in any</p> <p>5 way that you would have them help you. And we certainly</p> <p>6 would be willing to talk to anyone in the public that wants</p> <p>7 to call and talk to the staff.</p> <p>8 This is going to be an open process. The purpose of</p> <p>9 this hearing is to hear from the hearts of the people in</p> <p>10 this area as to what their vision of their House, Senate,</p> <p>11 and congressional districts are. So our staff is available</p> <p>12 and we have legal counsel available to help you.</p> <p>13 Mr. Meros.</p> <p>14 MR. MEROS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the</p> <p>15 committee --</p> <p>16 SENATOR KLEIN: Mr. Chairman?</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Senator?</p> <p>18 SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you. It's on now.</p> <p>19 Mr. Chairman, I guess before we get started, and with all</p> <p>20 due respect to what has been laid out so far, the normal</p> <p>21 process we work in the legislature is that we develop</p> <p>22 together a process and a plan of how we are going to</p> <p>23 approach legislation, this particular legislation's</p> <p>24 reapportionment. Whether it was election reform recently</p> <p>25 or other legislation, we do it together.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 getting their public input and at the same time letting</p> <p>2 members of the legislature who are interested in this</p> <p>3 process as well to ask questions about the process and do</p> <p>4 other things.</p> <p>5 I mean, the agenda as I see it, is a presentation by</p> <p>6 House legal counsel, a presentation by the reapportionment</p> <p>7 staff and comments from the public. There's no opportunity</p> <p>8 in this opening here for members of the public to raise --</p> <p>9 members of the committee to raise any kind of question</p> <p>10 about how this process over the next number of months will</p> <p>11 work. And I know just in hearing from some folks that</p> <p>12 there are questions out there.</p> <p>13 So I know that we are anxious, this has been a process</p> <p>14 everybody has been anticipating. The public is interested</p> <p>15 in coming forward. But even hearing from some of the</p> <p>16 legislators who represent this area, they want to make sure</p> <p>17 there is adequate time for the questions to be answered and</p> <p>18 adequate time for the public to come forward.</p> <p>19 So I guess what we need to address, Mr. Chairman, is</p> <p>20 an opportunity for members who do want to have a minute or</p> <p>21 two to say something, should have the opportunity. That's</p> <p>22 not diminishing the public's involvement. The public</p> <p>23 should have all the time in the world, everybody in this</p> <p>24 committee would agree with that.</p> <p>25 But there are questions about the hearings themselves,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 And I think there has been some concern expressed that</p> <p>2 up until this point we weren't, as all the members, and I</p> <p>3 can't speak for all the members on the committee,</p> <p>4 Republican or Democrat, but I certainly was unaware of</p> <p>5 exactly how this hearing was even going to go in terms of</p> <p>6 agenda or in terms of an informal process which is a formal</p> <p>7 process. You've outlined the fact that this is going to be</p> <p>8 an informal process.</p> <p>9 It's all about public input, which I couldn't agree</p> <p>10 more, this is exactly what it's all about, public input.</p> <p>11 But in order to make sure that we have public input and</p> <p>12 everybody in the public understands exactly what the rules</p> <p>13 of joining one of these meetings and participating are</p> <p>14 seems to me that we should have some set of rules, call</p> <p>15 them what we want, advice or something in writing so we can</p> <p>16 disseminate it to the public. Probably should have had an</p> <p>17 opportunity to look at it in advance so we can all come</p> <p>18 together on it and be comfortable with it.</p> <p>19 I think that there are probably a number of members of</p> <p>20 this committee that would like to have an opportunity to</p> <p>21 have a couple of minutes to talk about the reapportionment</p> <p>22 process and I understand your point was this is all about</p> <p>23 the public input but there is nothing to limit this</p> <p>24 committee from taking all the necessary time to hear from</p> <p>25 the residents of Tallahassee and the surrounding areas in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 there's questions about times of day. There are questions</p> <p>2 about broadcast issues. There are whole lots of issues out</p> <p>3 there that I think before we walk out of here today need to</p> <p>4 be answered so that we can move forward and feel that this</p> <p>5 is an open due process because we're all committed to an</p> <p>6 open process under Florida's sunshine laws and we need to</p> <p>7 get an answer to that before we move on with the legal</p> <p>8 presentations and get all these things just settled down</p> <p>9 and addressed properly.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Senator. What we</p> <p>11 will do is eventually get to hear the public. And I think</p> <p>12 that once we've heard the public testimony at that point we</p> <p>13 can reach some consensus on which members wish to speak. I</p> <p>14 think there are probably 60 members here and if each member</p> <p>15 spoke for three minutes, that would be three hours.</p> <p>16 So I suggest that we might hear from the public first</p> <p>17 and then anybody that wants to stay and listen to the</p> <p>18 members give statements can stay. But for now, let's move</p> <p>19 forward. And, Mr. Meros, will you give us your legal</p> <p>20 presentation?</p> <p>21 MR. MEROS: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My</p> <p>22 name is George Meros, counsel to the Florida House of</p> <p>23 Representatives for redistricting and reapportionment</p> <p>24 matters. I'm here today with my colleague, Senator Jim</p> <p>25 Scott, who represents the Senate to give you a brief</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 overview of matters relating to redistricting and 2 reapportionment.</p> <p>3 This presentation will not by any means be 4 comprehensive or a complete review of all issues. It will 5 rather provide only an outline of the constraints and the 6 obligations of the legislature as you begin this important 7 task.</p> <p>8 Redistricting is the process of dividing the residents 9 of the jurisdiction, in this case the residents of the 10 entire state of Florida, into different electoral seats or 11 districts. Both the Florida Constitution and the United 12 States Constitution require redistricting every ten years 13 commencing after the updated national census.</p> <p>14 Because of Florida's population increase over the past 15 ten years, Florida will have two additional members in the 16 United States House of Representatives, a total of 25 seats 17 in the House of Representatives, a total of 27 seats in 18 Washington. The State Legislature, therefore, will need to 19 create 25 separate contiguous House of Representative 20 districts that cover the entire state.</p> <p>21 The legislature will also need to divide the state 22 into 40 Senate districts and into 120 House of 23 Representative districts. However, the legislature may, if 24 it chooses, reduce the number of State Senate seats and 25 House seats to 30 and 80 seats respectively. The Florida</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 and Senate districts, within 15 days after passage the 2 Florida Attorney General is required to petition the 3 Supreme Court for a determination of the validity of the 4 Legislature's plan.</p> <p>5 If the Supreme Court declares invalid that plan, 6 within five days the Governor must reconvene the 7 legislature in an extraordinary session of no more than 15 8 days at which session the legislature must adopt a joint 9 resolution conforming to the Supreme Court's order. In 10 adopting a redistricting plan the legislature will be 11 guided by several factors including the principle of one 12 person, one vote, the requirements of the United States 13 Constitution, and federal statutes.</p> <p>14 The principle or idea commonly referred to as "one 15 person, one vote" is based on a series of landmark cases in 16 the 1960s. Generally, the principle stands for the 17 proposition that each person's vote should stand and should 18 account for as much as anyone else's. These cases embody a 19 reaction against the practice that occurred many years ago 20 in several states of maintaining districts for State 21 Legislative offices that were substantially different in 22 population.</p> <p>23 For example, in earlier times it was not unusual that 24 an urban district might have 250,000 people electing one 25 Representative to the State House of Representatives and a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 Constitution also requires that the state House and Senate 2 districts be consecutively numbered of either contiguous, 3 overlapping, or identical territories.</p> <p>4 In Florida, as I've just noted, the task of 5 redistricting is entrusted to the State Legislature. 6 Commencing with this public hearing, the State Legislature 7 will begin considering the opinion of Florida citizens. 8 Thereafter, legislative committee hearings will convene 9 this fall. And in January the fall legislature will begin 10 the process of developing and drawing the plans. And the 11 regular session of course ends in late March of 2002.</p> <p>12 If the regular session ends without a redistricting 13 plan the Governor is required by the Florida Constitution 14 to reconvene the legislature in a special session. That 15 session will not exceed 30 consecutive days. If the 16 special session ends without adoption of a redistricting 17 plan for the State Legislature again, the Attorney General 18 must petition the Florida Supreme Court to commence 19 deliberations on establishment of the plan. Within 60 days 20 of that petition the Florida Supreme Court must file a plan 21 for the State Legislature.</p> <p>22 If during the regular or special session the 23 legislature adopts a congressional plan, the Governor has 24 an opportunity to approve or veto that plan. If the 25 legislature adopts redistricting plans for the state House</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 rural district in the same state containing 75,000 people. 2 The Court concluded that that type of difference in 3 district population resulted in each vote in the district, 4 in the various districts, having unequal power. The one 5 person, one vote standard forbids those practices.</p> <p>6 The Constitution does not require exact mathematical 7 population in each district but there is a requirement of 8 substantial equality among the districts. Specifically 9 with regard to congressional seats, the population 10 requirement has a very strict standard. As a rule of 11 thumb, the population difference between districts, within 12 state congressional districts, will be substantially less 13 than 1 percent.</p> <p>14 In other words, if you take a state's total population 15 and divide it by the number of congressional seats in that 16 state the result will give you the ideal size for each 17 congressional seat. The population requirement for those 18 congressional seats will be equality well within 1 percent 19 disparity among the districts.</p> <p>20 For seats in the State Legislature there is a greater 21 ability to have some disparity in population. Courts have 22 approved disparity in population in State Legislative seats 23 of up to 10 percent depending upon the circumstances. The 24 Voting Rights Act of 1964 and also the Equal Protection 25 clause of the United States Constitution are obvious and</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 important elements in the legislature's consideration of 2 redistricting plans.</p> <p>3 Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits any 4 practice or procedure, including certain redistricting 5 practices, that impairs the ability of a minority community 6 to elect candidates of choice on an equal basis with 7 nonminority members, nonminority voters.</p> <p>8 Florida is also one of the states containing certain 9 counties subject to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. 10 Section 5 requires to cover jurisdictions. And in 11 Florida's situation that is five counties, not the state 12 entirely. That prior to implementation of a proposed 13 electoral plan that affects those five counties, there must 14 be an application for approval of that change to either the 15 United States Attorney General or to the United States 16 District Court for the District of Columbia and that 17 process is known as preclearance, Section 5, preclearance.</p> <p>18 In Florida the covered jurisdictions are Collier, 19 Hardee, Hendry, Hillsborough, and Monroe Counties. So any 20 district plans that overlap or touch or affect those 21 counties will be subject to Section 5 preclearance. The 22 vast majority of those preclearance requests are made to 23 the U.S. Attorney General's Office rather than the District 24 Court of Columbia -- or District of Columbia.</p> <p>25 Preclearance is obtained if the Attorney General</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 going to give a brief census overview for the state of 2 Florida and then I'll give a brief census overview for the 3 Tallahassee Leon County area and the counties surrounding 4 Leon County.</p> <p>5 Florida's population has grown according to the 2000 6 census to a total of 15,982,378. This is an increase over 7 the 1990 population of 12,937,926. This is a 23 and a half 8 percent increase or 3,044,452 people. And as George Meros 9 just stated, we picked up two new congressional seats as a 10 result of this growth.</p> <p>11 Miami-Dade County remains Florida's most populous 12 county. The population of 2,253,362. Miami-Dade, Broward, 13 Palm Beach, Hillsborough and Pinellas are the five most 14 populous counties in Florida. Flagler County experienced 15 the fastest rate of growth for a county in the state of 16 Florida with a growth rate of 73.6 percent. The top five 17 counties in percentage rate of growth from 1990 to the 2000 18 census are Flagler, Sumpter, Collier, Wakulla, and Osceola 19 Counties.</p> <p>20 Jacksonville remains Florida's most populous city with 21 a population of 735,617. The top five cities in terms of 22 population in Florida are Jacksonville, Miami, Tampa, 23 St. Petersburg and Hialeah. Florida's minority population, 24 in 1990, the African-American population in Florida was 25 1,759,534 or 13.6 percent of the population. The Hispanic</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 affirmatively approves or fails to object or approve within 2 60 days of the application. In either event, the covered 3 jurisdiction or the county or the entity that prepares the 4 plan has the affirmative burden of proving that the 5 proposed voting change in this instance, redistricting 6 plan, does not have the purpose or will not have the effect 7 of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of 8 race or color or membership in a language minority.</p> <p>9 The legal rules concerning redistricting and 10 reapportionment are complicated. This short presentation 11 only scratches the surface of some rather delicate legal 12 issues. I, together with my Senate colleague, Senator 13 Scott, will stand ready to assist the chairman and these 14 committees throughout these proceedings. Thank you.</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Attorney Meros. 16 Members, we will have Attorney Meros' remarks either 17 E-mailed or delivered to the members today or tomorrow. So 18 those remarks will be available for your perusal.</p> <p>19 Next, we have Todd Thompson, staff director of the 20 House Redistricting Committees, to make a brief 21 presentation on some of the information from the 2000 22 census that we will be using and looking at throughout the 23 process. You're recognized, Mr. Thompson.</p> <p>24 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Senator 25 Webster and members of the committee. Today, I'm just</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 population in 1990 was 1,574,143 or 12.17 percent. As a 2 result of our growth, according to the 2000 census, the 3 African-American population in Florida is now 2,335,505 or 4 14.6 percent and the Hispanic population is now 2,682,715 5 or 16.8 percent of Florida's population.</p> <p>6 The median age in Florida rose to 38.7 years according 7 to the 2000 census. This is an increase from 1990's census 8 median age of 36.3 years. Age 65 plus, an important group 9 to us in Florida, according to the 2000 census that 10 population is now 2,807,597, an increase of 438,160. But 11 an actual decrease in percent of the population from 12 18.3 percent to 17.6 percent.</p> <p>13 Population by gender, according to the 2000 census, 14 there are just over 8 million females in Florida and about 15 7.8 million males in Florida. Now the ideal population per 16 district due to our growth. In 1990, the State House 17 districts, the ideal population was 107,816. Ideal State 18 Senate population was 323,488 and each congressional 19 district contained 562,518.</p> <p>20 For the year 2000 those, based on 120 House districts, 21 40 Senate districts and 25 congressional districts, each 22 state House seat will have 133,186 people. Each State 23 Senate district will have 399,559 people and each 24 congressional district will have 639,295 people. Now I'll 25 give a brief census overview for Leon County and the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 surrounding area. If you'll look in the back, we have some 2 maps of the state of Florida and the region I'll be 3 discussing.</p> <p>4 Leon County's population, according to the 2000 census 5 was 239,452. This is an increase of 24.4 percent over 6 1990. Tallahassee remains Florida's eighth most populous 7 city with a population of 150,624. An increase of 8 20.7 percent. Jefferson County, population now of 12,902. 9 It's a 14.2 percent increase over 1990. Taylor County 10 according to the 2000 census has a population of 19,256, a 11 12 and a half percent increase over 1990.</p> <p>12 Madison County, according to the 2000 census has a 13 population of 18,733. This is a 13.1 percent increase over 14 1990. Hamilton County, according to the 2000 census, 15 Hamilton County's population was 13,327, a 21.9 percent 16 increase over 1990. Lafayette County, one of our smaller 17 counties, according to the 2000 census has a population of 18 7,022, a 25.9 percent increase over 1990.</p> <p>19 REPRESENTATIVE WILSON: Could I ask you a question? 20 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: A question, recognized for a 21 question.</p> <p>22 REPRESENTATIVE WILSON: Is this data that you're 23 presenting to us, is it on the Internet now, the census 24 data?</p> <p>25 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Mr. Thompson?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 And finally Gulf County has a population of 13,332, 2 according to the 2000 census. This is an increase of 3 15.9 percent over 1990. And as I stated earlier, all this 4 information is available at the census bureau web site, 5 www.census.gov. The House also has a redistricting web 6 site at Floridaredistricting.org. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>7 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Mr. Thompson. The 8 House staff will be available to answer any questions that 9 you might have about the census and of course this 10 information is on the census web site and also the 11 houseredistricting.org web site.</p> <p>12 Now we move to, the reason we are here today, the 13 public testimony. As I stated earlier, the speaker cards 14 are in the back and we'll use those to call on individuals 15 who would like to address the hearing. If you have not 16 filled out a card, please do so and one of our staff 17 members will take that card from you. So please remember 18 that in order to ensure that everyone has a right to be 19 heard that we will be limiting our remarks to four minutes. 20 And right now we have about 40 cards which means we have a 21 little over two hours, two-and-a-half hours of public 22 testimony.</p> <p>23 With that, one other announcement, Speaker Feeney will 24 be available at noon and will be making a short statement 25 and have a press availability at 12 noon in front of the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am. This is directly from the 2 census bureau web site at www.census.gov, G-O-V.</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE WILSON: And the Florida data is there? 4 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, ma'am.</p> <p>5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dixie County's population, 6 according to the 2000 census was 13,827, an increase of 7 30.6 percent.</p> <p>8 Levy County, according to the 2000 census had a 9 population of 34,450. This is a 32.9 percent increase over 10 the 1990 population. Suwannee County 2000 census reported 11 34,844 people, a 30.1 percent increase over 1990. Gilcrest 12 County had a growth of 49.3 percent to a population of 13 14,437. Gadsden County now, according to the 2000 census, 14 has a population of 45,087, this is a 9.7 percent increase 15 over 1990. Wakulla County, according to the 2000 census 16 has a population of 22,863, 61 percent increase, one of the 17 largest in the state.</p> <p>18 Franklin County, population of 11,057, according to 19 the 2000 census, a 23.3 percent increase over 1990. 20 Liberty County is our smallest county in terms of 21 population in Florida with a population of 7,021, that's a 22 26.1 percent increase over 1990. Jackson County with a 23 13 percent increase is now 46,755 according to the 2000 24 census. Calhoun County has a population of 13,017. This 25 is an increase of 18.2 percent over 1990.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 House chamber with respect to redistricting. So Speaker 2 Feeney will have a press availability at 12 noon in front 3 of the House chamber.</p> <p>4 So with that, the first speaker is Lana Morgan. 5 Ms. Lana Morgan. Welcome to the committee, Ms. Morgan. 6 You are recognized to address the public hearing.</p> <p>7 MS. MORGAN: My name is Lana Morgan and I'm the 8 supervisor of election in Lafayette County. No boos, 9 please. (Laughter.) My main concern when lines are drawn, 10 when a district is split in the county it makes for more 11 difficulty in programming an election, more expense in 12 printing a ballot and the ability of the poll workers to 13 make sure the voter gets the correct ballot.</p> <p>14 So when lines are drawn if they could follow a 15 precinct boundary would make it so much easier. And this 16 is the concern of all the supervisors. Our Representative 17 from the FSASE will be speaking later as a concern. 18 Secondly, my concern as a citizen of a rural county, we 19 need to be grouped with counties with like concerns and 20 interests.</p> <p>21 Also, lines should not be drawn for partisan gain if 22 possible. And then the timetable, because the timetable of 23 redistricting comes right on the threshold of qualifying to 24 run for office in 2002, it makes our work triple. And when 25 you're a small county, you don't have a lot of employees</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 that has -- to get out new cards for when the lines are 2 split or whatever, it sure causes a burden for the 3 taxpayers as well as the work of the office staff. And 4 then when there is a contested line and it has to go to the 5 court for the Court to decide it makes it that much harder. 6 So when you draw your lines, please give that 7 consideration. We'd appreciate it.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Ms. Morgan, for your 9 service to your county and the state of Florida. Ricky 10 Lyons, Ricky Lyons. And after Ricky Lyons, we will call up 11 Mark Neimeiser. And after Mark Neimeiser, we will call up 12 James Callahan. So, Mr. Lyons, welcome to the public 13 hearing. You are recognized.</p> <p>14 MR. LYONS: Good morning. My name is Ricky Lyons. 15 I'm the clerk of the court from Lafayette County also. And 16 if you noticed up on the screen when some of the counties 17 were being shown overhead with a population, we are the 18 second smallest county in the state of Florida. That title 19 of being the smallest county was stolen by Liberty County 20 and I think we're only about one set of twins away from 21 being the smallest.</p> <p>22 In 1990 I believe we were the smallest. But thinking 23 about Lafayette County as being small and we think about 24 the whole state of Florida being I think we were somewhere 25 close to 16 million, we're only -- I don't even know if</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 represents us, makes his or his job a lot easier for us to 2 be together and you've got a lot of small counties together 3 that have a lot of similar interests. So I guess from my 4 standpoint that is the key, just trying to keep us together 5 instead of sticking us with one or two of us for lack of 6 Duval County or somewhere so that we get kind of lost in 7 the shuffle.</p> <p>8 So even though 7,022, that's just a small speck in the 9 whole state of Florida, but we sure would like for you to 10 remember us in Lafayette and all the small counties that 11 surround us. Thank you.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Mr. Lyons, for your 13 service to your county and the people of the state of 14 Florida. Next we have Mark Neimeiser. Welcome to the 15 public hearing.</p> <p>16 MR. NEIMEISER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Senators and 17 representatives, appreciate the opportunity to come before 18 you today. I am Mark Neimeiser. I represent the American 19 Federation of State County Municipal Employees, a union 20 which is comprised of not only public employees as the name 21 might indicate but also a union that represents some 22 private, nonprofit hospitals as well and some other 23 functions throughout.</p> <p>24 In the main, we are workers. And to that extent I 25 want to talk to you not only about AFSCME members which</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 we're a speck on that spectrum -- but if you think about 2 the district that we are in, we range from Panama City with 3 all the beaches to the capital with Tallahassee in it, then 4 all the way over easterly toward Lafayette County which we 5 border the Suwannee River.</p> <p>6 You also, if you're familiar with how the districts 7 are broken up now, a lot of those counties that were put on 8 the screen that were very small are counties in our 9 congressional district. And I guess as I think about your 10 responsibilities on this committee, you have a large 11 responsibility. Florida is still growing fast and we are 12 increasing that with two congressional districts.</p> <p>13 So some of the lines may have to change, we realize 14 that. But when you're thinking about that and you take all 15 this into consideration, I'd like to just ask you to think 16 about all the small counties in north Florida, think about 17 geography as a lot of the things that we have in north 18 Florida are very special to us. And that one thing being 19 is all the counties being together, even the people that 20 live in Leon County a lot of times you can make a phone 21 call to somebody that works in a state office and they can 22 relate to being in Wakulla County or Jefferson County, they 23 are from a small county.</p> <p>24 So we just would like to ask for you to take all that 25 into consideration. And it makes that person that</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 stretch all the way from Pensacola all the way down to the 2 Keys in terms of where they reside but they are workers and 3 they work in every job classification that could be 4 considered on the lexicon of jobs.</p> <p>5 We would also point out to you that those workers work 6 in various communities not just where they live. And so we 7 have, I think, a unique understanding of what it means when 8 we talk about communities of interest. And we will be 9 appearing, members of ours will be appearing at each one of 10 these public hearings. But I want to stress to you that 11 although 20 may seem like a lot to you who have to travel 12 around the state, to many of our folks it means driving 13 time. It means as currently situated that people would 14 have to take off from work.</p> <p>15 So I would urge you to consider holding more evening 16 meetings since there are more people who work during the 17 day than during the evening. I would also urge you that it 18 is good that you consider taking testimony by written form 19 or through electronic form. But there should be some way 20 that individuals will know that that testimony, if they 21 choose to give it in that fashion, will be distributed to 22 each one of you. And that they can get responses and 23 access to others who would provide that testimony. So that 24 there is an understanding, once again, the uniqueness of 25 our state is able to be enacted in whatever lines end up</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 having to be drawn.</p> <p>2 Let me point out to you that access is critical</p> <p>3 information and the spread of that information is critical.</p> <p>4 And so I would encourage you, if you can, to provide</p> <p>5 summaries and availabilities of what happens at each</p> <p>6 hearing so the people can access that and respond to it.</p> <p>7 I might also point out that I was a little</p> <p>8 disappointed just now when the chairman pointed out that</p> <p>9 the speaker was going to be having a press conference at</p> <p>10 12:00. This hearing is scheduled to go during that period</p> <p>11 of time and it's absolutely critical that you give the</p> <p>12 citizens the understanding that you are interested in what</p> <p>13 they have to say and what they feel about their communities</p> <p>14 and their needs of having districts that represent them and</p> <p>15 are Representative of them. We think that's absolutely</p> <p>16 critical. The message should be that you are interested,</p> <p>17 that these aren't just hearings to just get it out of the</p> <p>18 way.</p> <p>19 And to that extent I would further ask on behalf of</p> <p>20 our organization that you consider at some point after the</p> <p>21 hearing provide a chance to sort of go over and have the</p> <p>22 public respond once again or at least give the public</p> <p>23 access to respond again. And I know that during your</p> <p>24 legislative session there will be other chances. But once</p> <p>25 again, I think because of the unique nature of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 not have a piece of it where those folks in effect are</p> <p>2 disenfranchised. It's a small county. They have a</p> <p>3 community of interest which is significant to them and</p> <p>4 frequently feel that they are left out. Our members</p> <p>5 frequently get confused so basically enough, part of my</p> <p>6 responsibility is to go out into the field and talk to</p> <p>7 people about legislation, politics and frequently they get</p> <p>8 confused about why they have one legislator when folks just</p> <p>9 down the road have another legislator.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Mark, we have 15 seconds.</p> <p>11 MR. NEIMEISER: And I would point out that in Senate</p> <p>12 District 3 that there is also a need to bring that district</p> <p>13 further east so that two-and-a-half hours away in Panama</p> <p>14 City the community of interest is not necessarily there.</p> <p>15 We do not believe that congressional districts ought to be</p> <p>16 split north/south but rather should take in the Big Bend</p> <p>17 format.</p> <p>18 Let me just close very quickly by saying that four</p> <p>19 minutes doesn't seem to be enough time for me. I would</p> <p>20 suggest to you though that there are folks who won't take</p> <p>21 up a lot of your time if they understand what the access</p> <p>22 is, what the rules that you're playing by, and that you are</p> <p>23 interested in what they have to say and want to know about</p> <p>24 their particular communities of interest. Please do not</p> <p>25 take this as a political venture, take it as one that is</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 redistricting and the fact that it only takes place every</p> <p>2 ten years, even during the legislative session we would ask</p> <p>3 you to make arrangements so that the system could be opened</p> <p>4 up even more than our current system allows.</p> <p>5 We think there is a need to have people to be able to</p> <p>6 understand that a little tweak of a line could mean that</p> <p>7 they are separated from not only their neighbors but also</p> <p>8 those constituencies that they belong to and have been a</p> <p>9 part of. I am a resident of Leon County, city of</p> <p>10 Tallahassee. I reside at 916 Shadowlawn Drive. And to</p> <p>11 that extent, I live currently in House District 9. It is</p> <p>12 my sense, if I look at the census figures, that that</p> <p>13 district has more than enough folks to meet the standard</p> <p>14 deviations that you'll probably develop. The question is</p> <p>15 what shape does that district take.</p> <p>16 And I would say to you that it is our interest as</p> <p>17 residents of the city of Tallahassee, as workers of the</p> <p>18 city of Tallahassee that those old districts that</p> <p>19 historically have been part of the city, inside I-10, be</p> <p>20 kept in what would be Senate District 9, House District 9,</p> <p>21 I'm sorry. I think that's important.</p> <p>22 House District 8 which runs contiguous to that also</p> <p>23 has a great many of our members and should remain</p> <p>24 contiguous. We would suggest that once again you need to</p> <p>25 expand that district by taking in all of Gadsden County,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 your civic duty and the community I think will respond in</p> <p>2 turn. Thank you.</p> <p>3 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Mr. Neimeiser. Those</p> <p>4 are some excellent suggestions and I can assure you that</p> <p>5 the submissions will be made available to all the members</p> <p>6 and that's some excellent points. Thank you.</p> <p>7 Mr. James Callahan. Welcome to the public hearing.</p> <p>8 MR. CALLAHAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess we</p> <p>9 have five Mr. Chairmans: Mr. Byrd, Mr. Diaz-Balart,</p> <p>10 Mr. Ball, Mr. Chairman Crow, and Mr. Chairman Kyle.</p> <p>11 Couldn't find any women for the job?</p> <p>12 My name is Jim Callahan. I'm from Orange County</p> <p>13 Florida and I'm a member of the Orange County Democratic</p> <p>14 Executive Committee and I've been active in the local</p> <p>15 Orange County redistricting process. We have a single</p> <p>16 member district at all the levels. We have committees for</p> <p>17 the county commission, school board, and city of Orlando.</p> <p>18 And so I've seen some of these legal presentations and maps</p> <p>19 and so forth. We're already in the thick of that process.</p> <p>20 I have more than 40 citizens involved as official members</p> <p>21 of those committees and many more in the public.</p> <p>22 The chairman of the Democratic party, Doug Head, is</p> <p>23 out of state on business today but I did want to relay</p> <p>24 three procedural concerns. One is the lack of an agenda on</p> <p>25 the web site. You know, in our local committees in Orange</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 County it's normally customary to post the agenda ahead of 2 time of the meetings on the web site. You know, coming 3 from Orlando, not knowing what to expect today. 4 The same goes for the rules of procedure. Normally 5 the first meeting is an organizational meeting. I just 6 attended the school board's redistricting advisory 7 committee's organizational meeting. But usually there is a 8 resolution by the sponsoring body and then rules of 9 procedure adopted by the members and those are both usually 10 posted on the web site. We have three different web sites 11 in Orange County. Actually four, the Supervisor of 12 Elections has some information on their web site as well. 13 The third issue that concerns both Chairman Head and 14 myself is the lack of availability of the FREDs 2000 15 software. I personally submitted a public records request 16 for the software which is necessary to make sense of the 17 census data beyond the level of what we saw on the slides 18 here. The pretty pictures that you see over there are 19 created with computer graphics using the census data. And 20 if the public is going to have meaningful input on this the 21 public is going to need access to that. 22 Personal computers are available. This body has 23 appropriated money and time and staff to develop the 24 software, why doesn't the public have access to it? I've 25 gone through the public records process, I communicated in</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 President Jennings -- 2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Fifteen seconds, Mr. Callahan. 3 MR. CALLAHAN: So I think the concerns are for the 4 Hispanic community, the African-American community that 5 wants to preserve the district where it believes lives are 6 at stake. And the Democratic party which has achieved 7 parity in Orange County which is currently outnumbered nine 8 to one in the House seats. Thank you very much. 9 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Mr. Callahan. 10 Mr. Callahan, Senator Webster would like to take a brief 11 second to address the software issue. 12 MR. CALLAHAN: Sure. 13 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the 14 back table there, there is an announcement of the release 15 of software known as FREDs. It's the full-blown software 16 that we'll be using to draw. It also includes all of the 17 data we will have available to us as members and the staff, 18 House, and Senate. And clipped to that announcement is an 19 application to get the software. 20 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Chairman, what time frame are we 21 taking about on this? I mean, you're saying this is -- 22 this is a piece of paper. A piece of paper is fine, but 23 when do we actually get our hands on the software? The 24 hearing in Orlando is going to be August 20th. We need to 25 be able to get the software out to people to begin drawing</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 writing with Counsel Ted Hassle (phonetic) of this body and 2 I've even gone through the Attorney General's office and 3 requested mediation. Where is the software? How is the 4 public going to meaningfully participate in this process, 5 be able to show you lines and numbers? There is a saying 6 that a picture is worth a thousand words. The pictures in 7 this business are the kinds of colored maps you see over 8 there. 9 In Orange County I'm particularly concerned about the 10 software because I'm active on the local level. And one of 11 the issues has been there's been a very large increase in 12 the Hispanic population. The school board in Orange County 13 was originally going to draw its own districts itself but 14 there are no Hispanic members on the district because of 15 the historical accident. And so now if they need to draw a 16 Hispanic district, there would have been no Hispanic 17 member. And so the community is in uproar, the Sentinel 18 published editorials and columns about it. The school 19 board appointed a 28-member committee. 20 So we have people in Orange County who are very 21 concerned about this process who are familiar with the law 22 and drawing the maps, who are involved this time, were 23 involved ten years ago at the local and state level. I 24 attended a hearing with other residents of Orange County 25 ten years ago at Valencia Community College with Senate</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 the districts among the small groups and then begin to put 2 those plans together so we can make a presentation. 3 SENATOR WEBSTER: I'm sure you're aware there are 4 software licenses and other things. So it took us awhile 5 to get a contract with the licensee so that we could, at a 6 reasonable cost, purchase copies to be available to the 7 public -- 8 MR. CALLAHAN: I do understand that -- 9 SENATOR WEBSTER: Let me finish -- 10 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Chairman -- 11 SENATOR WEBSTER: You don't want an answer to the 12 question? 13 MR. CALLAHAN: I do want an answer to the question. 14 SENATOR WEBSTER: Well, I'm going to give you a time 15 frame. You're going to get it immediately. As quick as we 16 can ship it to you, you'll have it. Okay. Sign up today, 17 fill it out, you give us \$20, then you'll get it as quick 18 as we can. That handles our cost and the shipping cost. 19 MR. CALLAHAN: Mr. Chairman, back and forth on this 20 licensing issue, I mean, it occurred to me you must have 21 purchased the subroutine (phonetic) libraries to begin with 22 that would have come with a license. I mean, you didn't 23 get bootleg copies from somebody. This must have been a 24 consideration in purchasing the software to begin with. 25 There must be a price list out there so I'm not sure I</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 understand why this has become such an issue. 2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: I'll tell you what we'll do, 3 Mr. Callahan, we have some staff here that can explain it 4 to you in minute detail. Todd Thompson and the House staff 5 is available if you'd like to get into the details of those 6 issues. But the software is available and it will be 7 available to every citizen in the state of Florida. My 8 high school senior can put it on her computer and start 9 drawing districts almost immediately. So thank you for 10 your participation and look forward to working with you. 11 Next three are David Goolsby, Roy Ellis, and Ronnie 12 Moore. Mr. Goolsby, welcome to the public hearing. 13 MR. GOOLSBY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all 14 let me start out by saying thank you-all in advance for 15 your efforts on this redistricting. I know it's a 16 horrendous task you're going to undertake. 17 Let me introduce myself. I'm David Goolsby, and I'm 18 the property appraiser from Hamilton County. But first, 19 I'm a farmer. And that's one thing that concerns me is the 20 population of Florida, is that we don't lose the type of 21 district that I'm in, which is the north Florida district 22 and it's predominantly rural and it's agricultural. 23 At this point all my representatives, Senator 24 Mitchell, Representative Stansel, and Congressman Allen 25 Boyd all come from an agriculture background and that's one</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 that, Johnny Eubanks. After that, James Henderson. If you 2 could be ready. You're recognized. Welcome to the 3 hearing. 4 MR. MOORE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One correction. 5 I'm Commissioner Ronnie Moore. Mr. Ellis decided to yield 6 his time since we're from the same area. I want to thank 7 you-all for having this public hearing. I know the first 8 one, there are a lot of initiatives that have to be gone 9 through and the first ones are always the tough ones. 10 Some concerns that I have, you know, as we go through 11 this redistricting process, one would be not to split 12 communities of interest. Being a Representative from 13 Madison County and a commissioner from there, we are a 14 large agricultural type community. Agriculture is one of 15 our bigger industries in our particular county and it will 16 be in our best interest if they were not split. 17 Also, there is a military installation, and this is at 18 a congressional level, military installation, in our area 19 also and also state employees. We feel that would be best, 20 in the interest of this district, that those entities are 21 not split for voting purposes. 22 Second concern would be to avoid political and racial 23 gerrymandering. The octopus with the long arm so to speak. 24 If we can avoid that, I think that it will go a long way 25 for us. It will be in our best interest also as a state.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 thing that's real important to me and my family and to my 2 constituents. Being property appraiser sometimes is not 3 popular but I want to assure Senator Mitchell since he's 4 from my county that he's being assessed fairly and equal 5 and that's one thing I'd like you-all to consider when 6 you're doing this is to remember the geographical makeup 7 and also the economic makeup of these districts and that 8 everybody is being fairly represented. 9 We feel like sometimes, like some of the previous 10 speakers spoke on, that we could get juggled from a small 11 county, could get juggled with the urban counties or cities 12 and we feel we may not be fairly represented if that was to 13 happen. 14 Let me close with one sentence and say thank you and 15 just keep in mind those types of districts that we have and 16 their makeup and hopefully it's not politically driven. 17 Once again, thank you. 18 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Roy Ellis. Roy Ellis. Welcome 19 to the public hearing, Mr. Ellis. 20 REPRESENTATIVE MELVIN: Mr. Chairman, could those that 21 you call out in advance come forward? We won't waste as 22 much time for them getting to the mike and maybe we could 23 hear everybody. 24 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Just a moment, 25 Mr. Ellis. After you there will be Ronnie Moore. After</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 The third concern that I have is keeping congressional 2 seats as compact as possible. Here in north Florida we are 3 a sparsely populated area. We do cover a large area. I'm 4 not sure of the amount of square miles in the different 5 counties. 6 And I want to take time to just thank the legislative 7 body for the assistance that will be going to the small 8 counties for the purchasing of the voting machines. I did 9 attend the Florida Association of Counties' conference in 10 Jacksonville a couple of weeks ago. Several vendors were 11 on display showcasing their hardware, their equipment, that 12 we hopefully will be purchasing sometime in the near 13 future. We've not made a decision yet at this time as to 14 what type we're going with but they are all expensive and 15 that's going to be an added burden on the small counties. 16 Again, at the congressional level the western boundary 17 line should come down from the state of Alabama and 18 straight as possible and the eastern boundary line should 19 be as straight as possible or as vertical as possible of 20 that westerly line. Don't know exactly where the boundary 21 line will be but if they are as straight as possible, I 22 think it will help a lot as far as the small counties are 23 concerned. 24 And also, the senatorial districts, being a small 25 county, if those senatorial districts could have the same</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 boundary lines as our precinct line, that would help us 2 quite a bit. And I think Lafayette County had the same 3 concerns about the senatorial and precinct boundary lines 4 in having to print ballots and things of this nature when 5 it comes to getting the voting machines and ballot cards 6 printed up. 7 And in closing, I don't know what other input you-all 8 will be receiving from the constituents, but I'm sure it 9 will be in your-all's best interest if you can go out to 10 the different counties, maybe some input from the county 11 commissioners at that level in the different counties. Any 12 input will be valuable as you-all go through this process. 13 I don't envy you at all. It is a large task but it is one 14 that needs to be done and it needs to be done in the best 15 interest in the citizens of our county, of our state. 16 Thank you very much. 17 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, sir, for your service 18 to your community and the state of Florida. Johnny 19 Eubanks. (Pause.) Johnny Eubanks. Johnny Eubanks. James 20 Henderson. James Henderson. And after Mr. Henderson, 21 we'll have Mary Knight. Mary Knight will be after that. 22 And then Gene Flinn after that. 23 So, Mr. Henderson, welcome to the public hearing. 24 MR. HENDERSON: Thank you. I live in Suwannee County, 25 Live Oak. We have a dairy and also we do a lot of farming.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 hearings is important to this group. We sense that he 2 intended to have public hearings and we assume a web site 3 which will also add to the general education of the public 4 in these hearings. We applaud him for these initial steps 5 for an open and inclusive process; however, public hearings 6 are not the only thing needed to assure an open and 7 inclusive process. 8 Redrawing district lines is always challenging. The 9 public needs to be involved and so must have access to the 10 same software as the legislators. And I'm glad to hear 11 this morning that the software can be applied for at this 12 point. This will afford individuals and groups the 13 opportunity to draw plans and properly examine the 14 legislative members' plans. 15 Also, the public and legislators need time between 16 mark-up session to fully provide testimony and examine all 17 amendments that are filed. We ask that each committee 18 chair hold at least two workshops after the proposed 19 committee bill is available to the public and at least 14 20 days prior to the full committee action. Use of 21 teleconferencing throughout Florida would be helpful in 22 this process with the League. 23 A rule should be adopted to give legislators 24 sufficient time to prepare amendments to the committee 25 bills and give the public time to analyze the maps and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 We are very concerned about the agricultural aspect of 2 north Florida. Agriculture is a very important aspect of 3 north Florida as everyone knows. We have a large family. 4 Almost our entire family is involved with the agriculture. 5 And we'd like to be represented, we like to be able to know 6 our representatives. I think that having the districts 7 where we can be represented as agriculture is very 8 important to us. Thank you. 9 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Mary Knight. Mary Knight. 10 Welcome to the public hearing, Ms. Knight. 11 MS. KNIGHT: I'm here to speak for the League of Women 12 Voters in Florida, that is our state organization. We have 13 31 individual leagues scattered around the state. 14 Now that Florida has a population of almost 15 16 million, which I find overwhelming, we will have 25 16 instead of 23 congressional districts which has already 17 been pointed out. These figures represent a sizable 18 increase in the number of people who will be represented by 19 a particular member of Congress, Florida Senate, and the 20 House. 21 Speaker Feeney announced a schedule of 20 public 22 hearings, of which this is the first, to be held in 23 different locations around Florida. We sense that his 24 intent is, and I believe from what I heard this morning, 25 this is true, that public scrutiny through the public</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 amendments before the members take final action. 2 Open access to state government is important to the 3 League of Women Voters. We believe that an independent 4 commission to carry out redistricting would be more than 5 advantageous in dissipating much of the contention that has 6 in the past surrounded the districting process. 7 New legislators are placed in an untenable position 8 every ten years. To require you to draw your own district 9 lines and those of your party members and friends is 10 excruciating and it really is very painful. We see there 11 is a way out of that -- 12 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Fifteen seconds. Could you wrap 13 it up? 14 MS. KNIGHT: Yes. We believe that an independent 15 commission appointed by the legislature, one-half Democrats 16 and one-half Republicans from both houses, not members of 17 those but outside persons, who are not involved in 18 politics, from our perspective this process would be much 19 fairer if it were conducted in the sunshine. 20 Redistricting standards, we believe some of these have 21 already been discussed this morning. We encourage the 22 legislative leadership to recognize the importance of 23 adopting certain standards for drawing redistricting lines. 24 This will be an opportunity for the majority/minority 25 parties to shine. The League's recommended standard would</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 be districts should be drawn equal, district lines should 2 be drawn to form single-member districts, which has already 3 been mentioned -- 4 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Ms. Knight, you've had five 5 minutes. If you would submit that to the staff, we would 6 make sure the members receive that written submission. So 7 thank you very much for appearing today. 8 MS. KNIGHT: Could I say one more thing? 9 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Okay. 10 MS. KNIGHT: We encourage legislative leadership to 11 recognize the importance of adopting certain standards no 12 matter who draws the districts. This session is an 13 opportunity for both parties to demonstrate the best in 14 statesmanship. And may I ask you, I only brought 25 copies 15 so will they make more copies? 16 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: One copy is sufficient. If 17 you'll give that to the staff, we will make sure it becomes 18 part of the written submissions submitted here today. So 19 thank you very much. 20 Gene Flinn. Following Flinn will be Willie Reed. 21 Following that will be Cissy Boyd. And following Cissy 22 Boyd will be Ben Wilcox. 23 MR. FLINN: Mr. Chairman, members. If I could, I'd 24 like to have my remarks be made a part of the record as far 25 as being attached to this court reporter here. I have a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 compatibility, some togetherness with respect to the 2 grouping of populations for a particular Senate district. 3 And that's all I'm addressing, not the House district. 4 Frankly, further observation, I would hate to see your 5 district plan wind up before the U.S. Supreme Court simply 6 because it's another Florida election problem. Thank you. 7 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Willie Reed (sic). Willie Reed 8 (sic). Welcome to the public hearing, Mr. Reed (sic). 9 MR. SPEED: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is 10 Willie Speed. Former chairman of the Franklin County 11 School Board. My concerns have to do with the 12 redistricting process as it relates to the current 13 District 10. We are hopeful that as you go through the 14 redistricting process you will not forget the minority 15 constituents who reside in the present District 10. And 16 the redrawing of the lines, we are hopeful that when the 17 lines are completed we, the minorities, will be able to 18 have an impact on electing an official who will give our 19 concerns serious consideration. Thank you. 20 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, sir. Cissy Boyd. 21 Cissy Boyd will be followed by Ben Wilcox, who will be 22 followed by Eugene Ben Danaher and then Lynda Russell. 23 Welcome to the public hearing. 24 MS. BOYD: Thank you. Hi, I'm Cissy Boyd. I'm from 25 Monticello, Jefferson County, Florida. You are in the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 map that's a little bit smaller than the one you have the 2 on the wall here. Let me begin by making an observation. 3 Even considered to be a prediction. How Florida goes in 4 '02, the nation will go in '04. There existed with past 5 administrations a propensity of what might be termed as an 6 avowed purpose to create districts which were simply not 7 geographically compatible. In examining this map, the ones 8 on the wall I find, they are not altogether dissimilar from 9 Rorschach's ink spots. 10 We have such an example in District 40, ten years ago 11 it was called 39. It's the tail end of the state in any 12 event. It goes for 300 miles from Key West to Overtown 13 which is Northwest 62nd Street which is of course the 14 northern boundary of it. Sort of a leapfrog and I think we 15 ought to get away from that and I'm making that 16 respectfully as a suggestion. 17 The following districts, if I may be so partisan, are 18 not compatible. For instance, the Panhandle appears to be 19 symmetrically okay. However, Districts 2 and 4 are clearly 20 abominations. So are Districts 5, 14, 21, 32, 16 and 38. 21 And I would suggest too that District 31 needs to be 22 squared away in some fashion. However, I'm not here, up 23 here, in Leon County advocating every district be drawn, 24 necessity by necessity rather, resemble a checkerboard 25 pattern. I am suggesting though that there should be some</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 process of redrawing our district boundaries for the next 2 ten years and there are several criteria I feel are 3 important to make this process fair to all concerned. 4 First is compactness. It is so important to keep 5 these boundaries compact, drawing along county lines 6 whenever possible. During the last redistricting in 1992 7 Jefferson County Senate district, our county of 10,000 was 8 divided right across the middle for political purposes. It 9 has often created confusion as to who represents us and has 10 diluted the strength of our representation because we 11 became just a very small piece of the pie. 12 Second is community of interests. We want to be 13 represented with our neighbors who have similar interests. 14 For example, Jefferson County and Madison County are small 15 rural communities with many of the same needs and desires. 16 These two counties are also closely associated with Leon 17 County which is the hub of where they go for health care, 18 business, shopping, and entertainment. 19 Third is gerrymandering. This is the drawing out of 20 districts for only racial or partisan concerns. It creates 21 oddly-shaped districts that can be extremely long and drawn 22 out here in this relatively sparsely populated north 23 Florida area. This gerrymandering jeopardizes not only the 24 issue of compactness but also the issue of community 25 interests.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 Communities of interest, compactness, nonpartisanship 2 all should play a factor in this 2002 redistricting 3 process. I'm asking you to set a goal to keep this 4 reapportionment out of the courts by setting fair and 5 equitable lines throughout the state of Florida. Thank 6 you.</p> <p>7 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Ben Wilcox who will 8 be followed by Eugene Danaher and Lynda Russell. Welcome 9 to the committee, Mr. Wilcox.</p> <p>10 MR. WILCOX: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of 11 the committee. I thank you for allowing me to make some 12 brief remarks to you today. I'm Ben Wilcox representing 13 the citizens' lobby organization Common Cause. Common 14 Cause is a nonpartisan member-based organization interested 15 in government reform.</p> <p>16 Reform of the reapportionment process has been a 17 priority of Common Cause Florida since our organization was 18 formed in 1974. We followed the redistricting process 19 closely in 1982 and 1992. We plan to be heavily involved 20 this time around as well and we applaud you for conducting 21 these public hearings.</p> <p>22 Let me say at the outset that while Common Cause 23 believes the Florida Legislature does many things very 24 well, reapportionment is not one of them. History tells us 25 that despite assurances by legislative leadership that this</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 will not affect the current reapportionment process. So 2 this is your chance, your opportunity, maybe your last 3 chance, to prove that the legislature can do a fair and 4 responsible job of redistricting the state.</p> <p>5 To accomplish that goal, Common Cause suggests you 6 follow the following recommendations. First, the 7 reapportionment process itself. It's important the process 8 be as open as possible to the public and the press. The 9 computer software should be affordable and available. In 10 addition, the public needs time between mark-up sessions to 11 examine any amendments and provide testimony.</p> <p>12 We ask that each committee chair hold at least two 13 workshops or mark-up sessions after they make their 14 proposed committee plans available to the public and at 15 least 14 days prior to full committee action. We also ask 16 that you draw your redistricting plans based on standards 17 that Common Cause has advocated for a long time. These 18 standards have been endorsed in the past by both 19 Republicans and Democrats.</p> <p>20 First, the districts should be drawn as equal in 21 population as possible. Second, the district lines should 22 be drawn to form districts that are compact and composed of 23 contiguous territory. Third, the districts should be drawn 24 so as not to dilute the voting strength of any racial, 25 ethnic, or minority group. Fourth, the districts should</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 time the process will be different, there is a basic and 2 undeniable conflict of interest present whenever the 3 legislature begins drawing district lines for itself and 4 for Congress.</p> <p>5 Districts are typically gerrymandered to guarantee the 6 re-election of the incumbents or the election of members to 7 a higher office. The political party in control at that 8 time will try to use the reapportionment process to enhance 9 its power and weaken the opposing party's.</p> <p>10 Redistricting by the legislature has at least two 11 undesirable consequences. Typically, deals are made on 12 public policy issues in return for protection in the 13 process which results in flawed public policies. In 14 addition, these gerrymandered reapportionment plans are 15 legal lightning rods costing taxpayers dearly to defend.</p> <p>16 You're probably aware that Common Cause Florida and 17 the Florida League of Women Voters are working to place two 18 constitutional amendments on the ballot in 2002. One 19 amendment would create an independent citizen-based 20 reapportionment commission. The other would create 21 standards that the Commission would follow in the 22 redistricting process. We believe these amendments would 23 solve many of the problems I have just mentioned.</p> <p>24 Obviously even if these amendments make it to the 25 ballot and are approved by Florida voters in 2002, they</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 not be drawn to favor any person or political party. And 2 finally, the districts should be single-member districts 3 including 40 state Senate districts and 120 state House 4 districts.</p> <p>5 In conclusion, Common Cause Florida asks you to keep 6 in mind that these are not your districts. These districts 7 belong to the people of Florida and will be here long after 8 you have left office. Reapportionment is a very difficult 9 task and Common Cause Florida is ready to support you and 10 work with you as the process moves along. Thank you for 11 the opportunity.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Senator?</p> <p>13 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Mr. Chairman, could I ask 14 Mr. Wilcox a quick question?</p> <p>15 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: You're recognized for a quick 16 question.</p> <p>17 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 18 Mr. Wilcox, since you're the second speaker that requested 19 that we hold workshops following the presentation or the 20 development of the maps as proposed legislation, do you 21 mean in the format of a public hearing like this one so 22 that the public can provide input for those maps?</p> <p>23 MR. WILCOX: Absolutely.</p> <p>24 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: And are you suggesting 25 where those should be held?</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 MR. WILCOX: Well, we think it would be helpful to</p> <p>2 have teleconference calls and workshops along with our</p> <p>3 hearings just as we are having here today.</p> <p>4 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ: Thank you very much.</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Eugene Danaher, welcome to the</p> <p>6 public hearing.</p> <p>7 MR. DANAHER: Thank you, sir. My name is Eugene</p> <p>8 Danaher. 33 (phonetic) Centerville Road, Tallahassee</p> <p>9 32309.</p> <p>10 Mr. Chairman, with all due respect, let me emphasize</p> <p>11 that, please listen to these remarks if you will and the</p> <p>12 other members. This is a public hearing. We're all here</p> <p>13 off from work trying to get something done to help you and</p> <p>14 to work this problem out.</p> <p>15 This meeting started 13 minutes late. We were told it</p> <p>16 was going to be four minutes per speaker. Mr. Neimeiser</p> <p>17 spoke for 11 minutes. Mr. Callahan spoke for 8 minutes. I</p> <p>18 have a car outside parked in a two-hour limit and I'm going</p> <p>19 to get a ticket when I get out of here. A lot of other</p> <p>20 people are in the same boat. Some have already left. I</p> <p>21 respectfully ask there be more discipline in the way this</p> <p>22 thing is run. Run it the way you say it is and I think</p> <p>23 we'll all be happy.</p> <p>24 The purpose of my comments here is this, I am a member</p> <p>25 of Lorraine Ausley's District 9 here in Tallahassee. I'm a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Lynda Russell</p> <p>2 followed by Alvaro Fernandez and Robert Aguinaga.</p> <p>3 MS. RUSSELL: Good morning. Almost good afternoon.</p> <p>4 I'm Lynda Russell. I'm here representing the League of</p> <p>5 Women Voters in Tallahassee. I'd like to echo the comments</p> <p>6 of the state League of Women Voters and also Common Cause.</p> <p>7 As you may know, we are very, very supportive of an</p> <p>8 independent commission redrawing these lines. For the same</p> <p>9 reason that doctors don't operate on themselves, we don't</p> <p>10 believe the legislature ought to be carving up these</p> <p>11 districts. It is simply too painful to do the job well.</p> <p>12 But I don't think it's going to be said enough that we</p> <p>13 would like to see you, if you must do it yourselves, follow</p> <p>14 a set of guidelines that might give us the best plan</p> <p>15 possible. These would include compact and composed</p> <p>16 districts where possible. Please avoid division of</p> <p>17 counties. You should not dilute the voting strength of any</p> <p>18 group based on race, religion, or national origin.</p> <p>19 If you can bring yourself to follow these guidelines,</p> <p>20 the entire system will be healthier for it. Please try not</p> <p>21 to concern yourselves with the scars that might be</p> <p>22 inflicted on any incumbent political party or other person.</p> <p>23 We'd also like to urge you to have another set of hearings</p> <p>24 after you get an initial plan.</p> <p>25 Unlike our colleagues in the southern part of the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 registered voter. I have a recommendation to make. And I</p> <p>2 haven't been able to get ahold of Ms. Ausley. Is she here</p> <p>3 today incidentally? Her name isn't on the list.</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE AUSLEY: I am. I'm not on the</p> <p>5 committee.</p> <p>6 MR. DANAHER: Are you Ms. Ausley?</p> <p>7 REPRESENTATIVE AUSLEY: Yes.</p> <p>8 MR. DANAHER: I can't see you over here. Thank you.</p> <p>9 I'm going to recommend, Ms. Ausley, and the committee here,</p> <p>10 that you take and set up 20 percent of your precincts to be</p> <p>11 black registered voter majority precincts, 20 percent. I</p> <p>12 say registered voters not population because I believe</p> <p>13 you're working with population here on all your other</p> <p>14 deals.</p> <p>15 The reason I bring this up is you belong to a law</p> <p>16 firm, Ausley, McMullen, a very popular law firm. You may</p> <p>17 not be presently associated with it, but you have been a</p> <p>18 member of it. And this law firm is actively soliciting,</p> <p>19 recommending, and counseling and working with another</p> <p>20 public body here, elected body in this county, to arrange</p> <p>21 just such an arrangement. So I'm anxious to know are we</p> <p>22 going to have, can we have in terms of conformity with your</p> <p>23 political views and your previous organization's views,</p> <p>24 districts with 20 percent black registered voters? Thank</p> <p>25 you, Mr. Chairman.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 state, we are able to come and testify, again, because you</p> <p>2 are right here in Leon County's backyard. But I think it's</p> <p>3 only fair to the rest of the state that they have an</p> <p>4 opportunity to comment on a draft plan before final</p> <p>5 passage. Thank you.</p> <p>6 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. That is Lynda</p> <p>7 Russell. Lynda Russell. Alvaro Fernandez followed by</p> <p>8 Robert Aguinaga and Ion Sancho followed by Monte Belote.</p> <p>9 MR. FERNANDEZ: Mr. Chairman, members of the</p> <p>10 committee, good morning. My name is Alvaro Fernandez and I</p> <p>11 am the Florida director for the Southwest Voter</p> <p>12 Registration Education Project in the state of Florida.</p> <p>13 Ours is a national, nonpartisan organization established</p> <p>14 more than 25 years ago. Our mission is to achieve full</p> <p>15 political and economic empowerment of Latinos and other</p> <p>16 underserved communities.</p> <p>17 I have lived in Florida since 1960 and became involved</p> <p>18 with Southwest Voter a couple of years ago. We established</p> <p>19 our first Latino vote campaign, Latino Vote 2000, in five</p> <p>20 Florida counties last year. We're now working on projects</p> <p>21 that are known as Latino Vote 2001 that will be followed by</p> <p>22 Latino Vote 2002.</p> <p>23 My associate, Robert Aguinaga, will follow and discuss</p> <p>24 a number of interesting statistics demonstrating the</p> <p>25 tremendous growth of Latino populations throughout the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 state with great concentrations in several different 2 locations where we are involved. When I say "involved," I 3 mean that we have established or are in the process of 4 establishing redistricting committees in these areas. 5 For example, the south Florida area, Miami-Dade, 6 Broward, and Palm Beach Counties, there are committees 7 working, some already holding workshops and community 8 meetings getting ready to fully participate in this process 9 that determines the fate of our political life for the next 10 ten years. We are working together with groups like Latino 11 Leadership Institute, Hispack in West Palm Beach, Consejo 12 Colombo Americano, Group (phonetic) Election Cummidina 13 Americana, member to the Borinquen Clinic in Miami, the 14 Latino Voters League, the Haitian-American Foundation, 15 America's Community Center, Columbian-American Political 16 Action Committee and many others who plan to become 17 involved in redistricting and then follow that up with 18 voter registration drives and Get Out the Vote campaigns in 19 the respective communities. 20 The beauty of these groups is that they do not 21 represent only one community. There is a combination of 22 many that includes Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Mexicans, 23 Argentinians, Dominicans, Haitians, Salvadorians, 24 Columbians and many others. And all working together 25 towards one common goal, fair and equitable opportunities</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 followed by Ion Sancho and Monte Belote. Also followed by 2 Rebecca Jackson. 3 MR. AGUINAGA: Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, 4 I would first like to thank you for the opportunity to 5 speak today regarding the redistricting process. 6 My name is Robert Aguinaga and I am the redistricting 7 coordinator for the Southwest Voter Registration Education 8 Project. As Alvaro mentioned, Southwest Voter is a 9 nationally recognized organization whose concentration is 10 the increased political participation of the Latino and 11 other underserved communities within the political process. 12 The Florida efforts will be conducted out of the Miami 13 regional office. 14 Now I'm going to give a little demographics. And all 15 the following data that I'm giving is part of the public 16 law 94.175. In Florida, Latinos represent the largest 17 minority group in the state numbering close to 2.7 million 18 persons. They are 16.8 percent of the total Florida 19 population. 20 Over the past decade, Latinos have been one of the 21 fastest growing populations growing at a rate of about 22 70.4 percent and nearly three times the rate of the total 23 population. Latinos alone have represented nearly -- I'm 24 sorry. Latinos alone have represented 36.4 percent of the 25 total growth of the state, include other minority groups</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 to have our votes count and our voices heard in Florida's 2 civic and political life. 3 I would also like to add that professionally and 4 experience-wise, we are not alone. Not only is Southwest 5 Voter Registration Education Project involved with numerous 6 redistricting campaigns under its belt in the last 30 7 years, we also count on the help and support the United 8 States Hispanic Leadership Institute, the Puerto Rican 9 Legal Defense and Education Fund, the William C. Velazquez 10 Institute, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education 11 Fund and other national organizations with proven 12 redistricting track records, legal expertise and of course 13 state-of-the-art technology. 14 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you for your comments. Do 15 you want to wrap it up in about five or ten seconds? 16 MR. FERNANDEZ: Yes. Let me finish by stating that we 17 are here to let you know that we will participate in the 18 process every step of the way and at every public meeting 19 possible. Finally, and for this reason, I would like to 20 thank the committee for this opportunity and we look 21 forward to working with all of you from both sides of the 22 aisle to assure that this process is carried out in a just 23 and fair manner where all of Florida will benefit. Again, 24 thank you. 25 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Robert Aguinaga</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 such as African-Americans, Asians, and native Americans. 2 And minorities represented 67.7 percent of the total growth 3 in the state of Florida. 4 As nearly 70 percent of the growth can be directly 5 attributed to Latinos and other minorities, and as our 6 growth directly resulted in the addition of two new 7 congressional districts in Florida, it is imperative to 8 include Latinos and other minorities intrinsically within 9 the redistricting process. These public hearings are a 10 wonderful beginning to that end. 11 Southwest Voter, working with various other 12 organizations, servicing underserved communities across the 13 state will primarily be focusing its efforts in south 14 Florida and the Orlando regions. The five counties, 15 Miami-Dade, Broward, Hillsborough, Orange, and Palm Beach, 16 constitute nearly 77 percent of the total Latino population 17 in Florida. 18 Southwest Voter will be working closely with diverse 19 communities in these areas to help local grassroots-based 20 organizations participate within the redistricting process 21 in various capacities. And these communities are becoming 22 more diverse. 23 According to the census bureau summary file one just 24 released a few months ago, the largest Latino group in 25 Florida is now other Latinos which is actually at</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 37.4 percent, a hodgepodge of Central Americans, South 2 Americans, Dominicans and Latinos with various identities. 3 Along with the Haitian and Asian communities, it is the 4 intent of Southwest Voter to include these new communities 5 in the process. 6 From giving public testimony to the creation of a 7 statewide plan, Southwest will help increase the 8 involvement of underserved communities in the redistricting 9 process. We at Southwest Voter anxiously await the 10 opportunity to work closely with the members of the 11 committee in addition to legislators around the state as 12 mentioned. 13 Like the committee, our goal is to see a plan adopted 14 that fairly represents the diverse communities of interest 15 that exist within the state. We at Southwest Voter applaud 16 these hearings, encourage more hearings after a plan is 17 created or a draft plan is initiated, and look forward to 18 seeing the FREDS 2000 system. Which I should mention -- 19 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Excuse me. Thirty seconds. 20 MR. AGUINAGA: -- which I had the pleasure of using. 21 I got the opportunity to use the FREDS at the International 22 Conference of State Legislators and I look forward to using 23 it in the future and I have my form here. We understand 24 the difficult task you have at hand. I just finished 25 similar efforts in Texas. So we know the arduous process</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 draw districts so the outcomes of the races could be 2 determined before the election was even held. 3 The Florida State Association of Supervisors of 4 Elections in one time in its history has endorsed an 5 amendatory process to the Constitution. And that one time 6 was to establish a reapportionment process that was 7 rational, that had standards and in fact was not based upon 8 the idea that elected representatives controlled and should 9 draw the districts to ensure they won or their political 10 adversaries would lose. 11 I'm here today to ask that you establish a new 12 precedent for the Florida Legislature, one that has never 13 been adopted before. And that would be that this body 14 would adopt standards, announce those standards ahead of 15 time for how you would draw the districts. The standards 16 that we would like have been clearly enunciated by many 17 members that have talked to you. We believe that 18 legislative districts should be compact and contiguous. We 19 believe they should be equally numbered. We believe that 20 they should not be drawn to enhance or detract from the 21 political future of individuals holding office or their 22 parties. 23 You can do what other states have done. Iowa has such 24 a nonpartisan process. And in fact there are indices which 25 we can flip over to districts now that have been devised in</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 that you have in front of you and we make ourselves 2 available to you in any way we can. Thank you for this 3 opportunity. 4 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Ion Sancho. Welcome to the 5 public hearing. 6 MR. SANCHO: My pleasure to be here. I will tell you 7 this is the third time in three decades that I've had the 8 pleasure of addressing the House Reapportionment Committee 9 beginning in 1982, '92 and now 2002. 10 I am Ion Sancho, Leon County Supervisor of Elections 11 and also chairman of the Florida State Association 12 Reapportionment Committee. I'm here to tell you that as 13 someone who has some institutional knowledge about this 14 process, Florida does not have a very good record in 15 developing a public policy and process for reapportionment 16 that is really people oriented. The Florida State Supreme 17 Court, and the U.S. Supreme Court had to force the state of 18 Florida as recently as 1968 to reapportionment on a one 19 person, one vote, which is the standard. The standard that 20 Florida has had has been one that's been dominated by 21 partisan and political special interests to ensure that 22 individuals in power could be re-elected. 23 Supervisors of Elections are all too well aware of 24 this because the candidates and the parties come into our 25 office and buy the records of voter performance so they can</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 other states that would tell us what the percentage of 2 compactness of districts are. 3 And while the Supervisors of Elections Association has 4 not decided to go in that direction, that may be an option 5 that some of us or the association may so choose. We would 6 like you to have a public hearing after you adopt your map 7 and hopefully after you adopt standards so that we can in 8 fact examine and give public testimony as to what in fact 9 those standards were. 10 If you want to adopt a standard that says political 11 gerrymandering will be fine, that is your right. But 12 please tell the citizens that is what you are doing. 13 Communities of interest must be defined. And I was 14 very glad to see that this body said that we want to 15 protect the communities of interest. 16 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thirty seconds. 17 MR. SANCHO: Please define those for the citizens so 18 that they hopefully will represent municipal boundaries and 19 county boundaries. And communities reflect agricultural, 20 rural, or industrial or beach areas. 21 Again, please rationalize this process and try to look 22 beyond 2002. For example, this process should have been 23 done last year. The fact that we are drawing districts in 24 the same year that we are going to have elections indicates 25 that in fact we will not be able to put the legislative</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 districts in even overlay with the school board and the 2 county commission districts. In 1992 -- 3 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you very much for your 4 public comments. 5 MR. SANCHO: Thank you, sir. 6 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: If you'd like to make a written 7 submission, we would certainly appreciate that. 8 MR. SANCHO: We have provided written submissions for 9 where communities of interest have been split in Leon 10 County, and they are with your staff right now. 11 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you for your service to 12 the community and the state. 13 MR. SANCHO: Thank you. 14 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Monte Belote, followed by 15 Rebecca Jackson, followed by Nikki Beare, followed by Ann 16 Dupee. 17 Welcome to the public hearing. 18 MR. BELOTE: Thank you and good morning. My name is 19 Monte Belote. I'm a consumer affairs consultant and former 20 executive director of the Florida Consumer Action Network 21 and have followed the legislative process for going on two 22 decades. 23 I came today in large part to try and learn the 24 process, rules and procedures which don't necessarily seem 25 to be yet fully developed. But more importantly I wanted</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 the greatest extent possible to follow geopolitical 2 boundaries, primarily counties, is that critical nexus. 3 You've heard from others, which I'd like to quickly 4 reemphasize those, that out of the 20 committee meetings 5 that you plan across the state more than half are being 6 done during the day when working people will not have an 7 opportunity to participate. And I encourage you to 8 consider, while you've got time, to reconsider and move 9 more of those so that more working individuals can 10 participate. 11 And, finally, to encourage you to follow up early in 12 the process with public meetings once you have developed 13 your rules and procedure, your guiding principles and most 14 importantly, once you have your first map out so the people 15 can react to it. I see an awful lot of people here that 16 are either public interest advocates like myself who came 17 to learn, and individuals who want to have direction but 18 don't necessarily know what the process is going to be. So 19 hopefully you-all will enlighten us today and going 20 forward. Thank you. 21 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Rebecca Jackson, 22 Rebecca Jackson followed by Nikki Beare, followed by Ann 23 Dupee, followed by Robert May. 24 Welcome to the public hearing. 25 MS. JACKSON: Thank you. I'm Rebecca Jackson, I'm the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 to have an opportunity to encourage you as members to find 2 consensus and put your principles for redistricting first 3 before you get too much farther into the process of taking 4 public comment. 5 While it may be too late to hand over the process to 6 an independent redistricting commission, as was proposed by 7 constitutional amendment, it is not too late to adopt the 8 guiding principles of the people over politics amendment 9 regarding standards for redistricting. 10 I'm a native Floridian, but just like Indiana Jones I 11 hate snakes. And quite frankly many districts across this 12 state right now have slithering, bug-splat districts that 13 ultimately produced ten years ago seats which are 14 effectively not accountable to many in the public because 15 of splitting counties and splintering counties. 16 Interestingly enough that was the Democrats. So I'm very 17 encouraged to see that Republicans will have an opportunity 18 to try this differently and I'm encouraging you to 19 hopefully focus on that in the upcoming months. 20 In my own county, Hillsborough, what once was a 21 delegation of 11 senators and representatives today numbers 22 18. Only six of those are actually districts completely 23 encompassed in a major county of a million people. 24 Something is fundamentally wrong. And that critical 25 principle of keeping communities of interest intact and to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 city clerk for the city of Carabelle, which is located in 2 Franklin County. And that is one of our small communities, 3 it's just over 11,000. 4 From a small city's perspective, our commissioners 5 would like to go on record saying that they are against any 6 division other than the county lines. Small cities and 7 counties are already at a disadvantage due to population. 8 When you use dividers such as the Apalachicola River to 9 divide Franklin County it results in very little if any 10 representation from the House, Senate and congressional 11 representatives. 12 We would like to remain in a district which is 13 reflective of the same types of people and problems that a 14 majority of the small cities and counties are experiencing 15 in Florida today. 16 I'd like to thank you for taking this into 17 consideration and leaving our district lines as they are 18 now. Thank you. 19 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Nikki Beare. 20 Welcome to the committee, Ms. Beare. 21 MS. BEARE: Thank you. My name is Nikki Beare, I'm 22 vice-president of the National Women's Political Caucus of 23 Florida. And we are at both national and state levels 24 supporting women to be elected to public office. And 25 that's our focus. So that's why our focus is here in terms</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 of redistricting.</p> <p>2 I'd like to suggest that you should plan that the</p> <p>3 public needs opportunities to respond to the comments that</p> <p>4 you-all are making. After you have made a decision and</p> <p>5 started drawing lines that there should be other hearings</p> <p>6 so that we could have the opportunity of responding to your</p> <p>7 lines. And that's very, very important.</p> <p>8 Also, we have to make sure all the information is on</p> <p>9 the web site, the comments that are made, and all the</p> <p>10 people who have spoken, so that there can be an opportunity</p> <p>11 for people to meet like ideas. And be sure the URL address</p> <p>12 is publicized very, very broadly because a lot of people</p> <p>13 are on computers today that never were. My husband just</p> <p>14 got on this year, and I've been on if for ten years.</p> <p>15 Be sure the information of the software is available.</p> <p>16 And I'm very pleased to see that here's FREDs and we are</p> <p>17 getting our copy immediately so we can help draw some of</p> <p>18 those lines. And be sure that the citizens are fairly</p> <p>19 represented. Fairness is a very important issue all</p> <p>20 through the state.</p> <p>21 And you need to draw lines that are communities of</p> <p>22 interest, both districts at the federal and state level. I</p> <p>23 live in Gadsden County and there are several people that</p> <p>24 represent Gadsden County. And I appreciate the things they</p> <p>25 are doing for us, but it would be nice if we had one person</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 Representative Webster who was the great Representative for</p> <p>2 us, but opened up what were ties, really talking ties to</p> <p>3 West Orange County.</p> <p>4 So while our Senate district with Senator Cowin and</p> <p>5 Lake County works fine on that, what we've had is the</p> <p>6 availability overlapping with the two areas working</p> <p>7 together, in transportation there is now a transportation</p> <p>8 committee. And we've been able to make plans, move ahead.</p> <p>9 The county commission is working together advancing money</p> <p>10 to DOT to get necessary roads built. Our Chambers of</p> <p>11 Commerce are meeting together. The western campus of the</p> <p>12 University of Central Florida opens in Clermont in May. So</p> <p>13 people from West Orange will be coming to our area.</p> <p>14 So while you're hearing, Do it strictly by county</p> <p>15 lines, it should be of community interest, and I hope the</p> <p>16 people coming to you will let you know that sometimes</p> <p>17 crossing these county lines that you're aware of how they</p> <p>18 work together. You'll be hearing a lot more of this when</p> <p>19 you go down to the Orlando area. But thank you for what</p> <p>20 you're doing and welcome to Clermont.</p> <p>21 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Warren Nielsen. Oh,</p> <p>22 I'm sorry, Robert May, Robert May, followed by Warren</p> <p>23 Nielson, followed by Rodney Long.</p> <p>24 Welcome to the public hearing.</p> <p>25 MR. MAY: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, my name is Robert</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 representing Gadsden County and did the county as a whole.</p> <p>2 We're a growing county, however, the poorest county in the</p> <p>3 state.</p> <p>4 And also, the working people do need to be heard. And</p> <p>5 it's important that you hold some of the meetings in the</p> <p>6 evening so they have an opportunity to be there.</p> <p>7 And primarily, sunshine is important in Florida and it</p> <p>8 also is in redistricting.</p> <p>9 Thank you very much for the opportunity of speaking</p> <p>10 with you.</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Ms. Beare. Ann</p> <p>12 Dupee, followed by Robert May, followed by Warren Nielsen.</p> <p>13 Welcome to the committee.</p> <p>14 MS. DUPEE: Thank you. For a few more minutes, it's</p> <p>15 still morning.</p> <p>16 My name is Ann Dupee, phonetically like do pay your</p> <p>17 bills, I come from Clermont, the home of the brand new USA</p> <p>18 Triathlon National Training Center. When the Brit Olympic</p> <p>19 Team left Tallahassee, they were welcomed in Clermont,</p> <p>20 along with our triathlon Olympic team and some other</p> <p>21 Olympic-caliber athletes that have moved to our area and</p> <p>22 it's very exciting.</p> <p>23 What we found in 1990 in the reapportionment, South</p> <p>24 Lake, which is 20 miles south of Leesburg, was</p> <p>25 reapportioned and to the west and we inherited then</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> <p>1 May. I am a resident of Dixie County. I wanted to come</p> <p>2 today to speak somewhat to the committee on the historic</p> <p>3 perspective about redistricting. I've watched the</p> <p>4 redistricting process of the Florida Legislature for going</p> <p>5 on now about 37 years. And we have several members of the</p> <p>6 committee I think today who will remember some of the</p> <p>7 previous reapportionments. I see Jerry Melvin back there</p> <p>8 who I have known for a long, long time, some of the other</p> <p>9 members.</p> <p>10 I think we in North Florida, especially in all the</p> <p>11 rural counties in Florida, my home county is originally</p> <p>12 Hendry County, which is La Belle and Clewiston, represented</p> <p>13 by Representative Spoktrine (phonetic) who I went to school</p> <p>14 with. We in rural Florida, we need a sense of community</p> <p>15 and belonging. We have very strong roots here. And I</p> <p>16 think the thing for us all to remember is that we all as</p> <p>17 human beings all need a sense of belonging. We are not</p> <p>18 only tied by economic, cultural, historic and ethnic</p> <p>19 background and makeup, but we have many other things in</p> <p>20 common.</p> <p>21 And I think the thing that we long for most to see</p> <p>22 today in Florida, it's like the old saying goes, The</p> <p>23 government that is best for the people is always closest to</p> <p>24 the people. I have often felt over the years in the old</p> <p>25 pork chop days when every little county had its own man</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1 that they had their faults and their problems but at least 2 you could get to your member of the Legislature quite 3 easily by driving across town or something. 4 Now we have these large multicolored -- multicounty 5 districts. And when you see them on the map you really 6 need a magnifying glass, a lot of them, to see what's going 7 on. Remember that computers have no sense of a human 8 feeling or belonging. I want to give you a couple of 9 examples here. 10 A part of Dixie County, a very tiny percentage of it, 11 is in Representative Dwight Stansel's district. I think he 12 has 13 people in one part of a far precinct of Dixie 13 County, which is right across the Suwannee River. I think 14 it's 13; isn't it, Dwight? Something like that. And I 15 think two of them voted for him in the last election or one 16 of them did. The other one had the flu and couldn't make 17 it. Anyway he sends his regards to Dwight. 18 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: You have 30 seconds, sir. 19 MR. MAY: I wanted to say, I'm a member of House 20 District 10, the largest House district, and Senate 21 District 4. And I don't know how our Representative and 22 our Senator manage to keep up and visit with the people 23 unless they have a jet-powered helicopter to try to get to 24 everybody. Because it really creates a problem and we need 25 to do something about that and try and keep a sense of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1 Smith, Representative Jennings, Representative Kendrick, we 2 bring you greetings from Gainesville and Alachua County. 3 I am currently on the Board of County Commissioners in 4 Gainesville and Alachua County, I have had the opportunity 5 to serve as mayor of the City of Gainesville. I'm here 6 today respectfully requesting that this committee seriously 7 consider holding public hearings in the city of 8 Gainesville, Florida. 9 During the redistricting process of 1991, we held 10 public hearings in Gainesville, Florida. We are the host 11 city to the flagship university of this state. We are one 12 of the largest cities in this state. We are centrally 13 located, and our legislative district overlaps many 14 communities of interest. 15 In regards to the process, it is my hope that each of 16 you place the citizens of this great state above partisan 17 politics and personal agendas. We ask that you conduct 18 fair and impartial hearings. And we ask that you use the 19 census data to draw fair state and congressional districts. 20 Also in reference to the process, I would ask that 21 this commission set standards or guidelines by which this 22 process will take place. Number one, if you're going to 23 protect incumbents, tell the people of this state that you 24 are going to protect incumbents. It will be clear. We 25 know what you're doing.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1 community and involvement but then again be practical in 2 some of these districts, because I don't know how 3 Representative Kendrick has been able to hold up or Senator 4 Mitchell trying to meet all these districts, because they 5 are bigger than some states. 6 So I ask you to keep the human factor in mind for the 7 little rural counties. Thank you so much. 8 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Mr. May. 9 Warren Nielsen, to be followed by Rodney Long, 10 followed by Robert Hutchinson. Welcome. 11 MR. NIELSEN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair. My name is 12 Warren Nielsen, I'm Gainesville's city commissioner at 13 large. I come here with two of my colleagues from the 14 Alachua County Commission to represent the over a quarter 15 million residents of our community in that we would request 16 that this committee hold a public meeting in the city of 17 Gainesville at your convenience. 18 I would like to introduce first Alachua County 19 Commissioner Rodney Long, followed by Alachua County 20 Commissioner Robert Hutchinson, followed by concerned 21 citizen Doug Hornbeck. 22 Thank you. 23 MR. LONG: Chairman Webster, Chairman Byrd, members of 24 this esteemed committee, to the members of our local 25 delegation, Senator Mitchell, Senator Holzendorf, Senator</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1 We ask that you have equal population representation 2 in this process. We ask that you take into consideration 3 the one person, one vote concept in this process. We ask 4 that you take into consideration communities or 5 commonalities of interest in this process. We ask that you 6 avoid splitting cities. Districts should be compact, 7 recognize significant natural and manmade boundaries. 8 Avoid diluting minority voting strength by ensuring that no 9 retrogression occurs in those districts that have majority 10 or minority access. If in fact you do that, it will 11 clearly be in violation of Section 2 of the Voter Rights 12 Act. 13 Finally, I ask that you avoid multimember districts 14 which can split minority communities, which could minimize 15 or cancel their ability to elect their preferred candidate. 16 You have an awesome task here. I don't envy any of 17 you. I ask that you take this job very, very seriously. 18 We ask that you be fair in your dealings. Also, again, we 19 respectfully request that you hold a public hearing in 20 Gainesville, Florida. And I also ask when you hold these 21 public hearings you have them so the public can come. The 22 average person works 9:00 to 5:00. We pay you to work for 23 us. Please hold these public hearings after 5:00 or 6:00 24 in the evening time. 25 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: You have 20 seconds.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> <p>1 MR. LONG: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. 2 Finally, we ask that you give the citizens of 3 Gainesville and Alachua County the opportunity to 4 participate in this process. Thank you-all very much for 5 your time and for your consideration. 6 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. 7 Robert Hutchinson. 8 MR. HUTCHINSON: I'm Commissioner Robert Hutchinson 9 from Alachua County and we feel very well represented on 10 this committee and in general. We have about -- we have 11 five members of our local legislative delegation on this 12 committee and we appreciate that, but we do need a meeting 13 in Alachua County. There are numerous reasons that I won't 14 reiterate that Commissioner Long brought up. 15 I would also suggest there is a tool that you can make 16 available to make the whole redistricting process work 17 better with the computers and the Internet. And that is, 18 when somebody has an idea, for instance, we may have an 19 idea about how our neck of the woods ought to be 20 redistricted, we may not have any idea what's going on in 21 far north Florida or south Florida. Let us put that item 22 back onto the web site with our comments on why we think 23 this is a good idea. 24 If all of the different communities of interest in 25 geographic areas could do that, could re-post their ideas</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> <p>1 agree that this is an information age. 2 Welcome to the public hearing. 3 MR. HORNBECK: Thank you, Chair. My name is Doug 4 Hornbeck and I'm a citizen who lives in rural Alachua 5 County. I have helped several of our local officials with 6 their campaigns, both Democrats and Republicans, and I 7 always try to look for the best person for the job. 8 I come today with one message and that is to please -- 9 the people of Alachua County deserve and desire a public 10 hearing that is convenient to them. Currently the closest 11 meeting is in Ocala, Florida at 1:30 in the afternoon on 12 the very same day that our county commission meets. That 13 is not exactly very convenient. Next closest hearings are 14 in Jacksonville and Orlando at approximately 6:00 p.m. And 15 unless those hearings happen to be at the airports, which 16 are not -- I assure you that most of my friends would have 17 no clue how to get there. 18 So please at some point, and preferably after the 19 lines are drawn, have a public hearing in Alachua County. 20 Thank you very much. 21 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. 22 Bob Fulford, followed by Sandra Chafin, followed by 23 Karen Whaley. Mr. Fulford, welcome. 24 MR. FULFORD: Thank you. I'm Bob Fulford, I live here 25 in Tallahassee, have for quite some time.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> <p>1 back to the web site with comments and have the ability to 2 take further comments from people, that would create a 3 debate statewide that would allow you-all who have the 4 tough job of putting together the various puzzle pieces to 5 see how the different groups work. 6 This is a good process to hear the public, but it's 7 nowhere near as good as seeing the various maps that all of 8 these constituents and interest groups would produce. You 9 can do that interactively, you can do it at midnight in 10 your motel room out in one of these rural communities after 11 your public hearing. And I think that would be a very 12 effective process. 13 Use the tools -- I think Florida is relatively forward 14 thinking in their use of technology during the last 15 redistricting, and during this one I hope the same will 16 apply. You can go to the next step to make that 17 interactive. 18 So with that I encourage you to have a meeting in 19 Alachua County and please make the redistricting 20 interactive with the computers. Thank you very much. 21 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. That's an excellent 22 idea and we will have the plans posted to the web site. So 23 that's a great idea and we will follow up on that. I might 24 add that Florida is the only state that I know of that's 25 actually released the software to the general public. So I</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 In the interest of brevity and in the new 2 technological age, what I would like to say first is let's 3 in our minds cut and paste so that I don't have to say it 4 again. I would like to cut and paste the things that the 5 legislative members said earlier on in this meeting that 6 nobody, certainly not me, really understands what we're 7 doing and I don't think that's a good idea. I think we 8 should have had a lot more clarity on that. 9 I would like to cut and paste the remarks that Mark 10 Neimeiser made. You can go back and find and those put 11 them in and just cut and paste. Mr. Callahan from Orange 12 County had some really germane remarks to make and I 13 endorse those and say, Amen, and Ben Wilcox of Common 14 Cause. And I don't mean to leave out any of the people 15 after that, but I think by now, by the time those people 16 spoke it's clear that the citizens of the state of Florida 17 want to be heard and are going to be heard somehow or other 18 on this. 19 I don't represent anybody. I'm just a private 20 citizen. I think with the exception of one person I'm the 21 only one of those that's been up here this morning. 22 Everybody else represents some other group. I just 23 represent the private citizens. 24 The one specific recommendation that I would make at 25 this time would be that however you sort this thing out,</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 let all of Leon County be represented by one Senator. I 2 don't care who the Senator is, but let's just make sure 3 it's one Senator.</p> <p>4 And then finally, every year at Christmas when I get 5 in a real hurry for things I think, you know, 12 months ago 6 I knew we were going to have a Christmas. Ten years ago we 7 knew we were going to be here, and I don't think we planned 8 for it very well. Thank you.</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Mr. Fulford. 10 Sandra Chafin, followed by Karen Whaley, followed by 11 Karen Woodall.</p> <p>12 Welcome. Do you want to pull the mike down?</p> <p>13 MS. CHAFIN: Thank you. I am Sandra Chafin, I am here 14 from the Gulf County Chamber of Commerce, the executive 15 director.</p> <p>16 I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak to 17 you concerning this issue. I commend you for listening to 18 citizens on the topic that is so important to everyone. I 19 am representing a coalition of citizens that could not be 20 here today due to other planned meetings.</p> <p>21 I would like to ask you to give consideration to 22 placing Gulf County and Franklin County in the same 23 district. Gulf County and Franklin County have similar 24 issues, we have similar needs, interests. And our growth 25 patterns, we seem to be following along behind Franklin</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 Counties work closely together sharing similar growth 2 goals. We share a common community college, which is a 3 real coup for two small, rural communities. And it is 4 appropriately named the Gulf-Franklin Center.</p> <p>5 From an economic development perspective, we are 6 looking to other Gulf-Franklin entitled entities, again 7 tying the two counties together.</p> <p>8 In our district all of the rural counties work closely 9 together and are all looking at similar growth 10 perspectives. Only in a team effort of combined rural 11 counties do we have any strength in pursuing our economic 12 development goals. Gulf County has dealt with similar 13 goals of Franklin County. We have had the net ban, we have 14 had unemployment, our mill closing in Gulf County had an 15 unemployment of over 20 percent. This not only affected 16 Gulf County, but all of our neighboring rural counties.</p> <p>17 It is imperative that we keep Gulf and Franklin 18 Counties to continue as part of the same district, for 19 rural communities need each other and they need to stay 20 together. Thank you.</p> <p>21 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. Karen 22 Woodall.</p> <p>23 MS. WOODALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members. I 24 appreciate the opportunity to address you today. I'm Karen 25 Woodall and I'm here on behalf of the People's Advocacy</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 County. We're comparable in size. Due to our similarities 2 we share some of the same problems in regard to growth, 3 economy and other concerns that we will be addressing in 4 the future. Because we have these similar concerns and 5 interests, it does seem reasonable and feasible to put Gulf 6 and Franklin Counties in the same district.</p> <p>7 Gulf County is presently a designated area of critical 8 concern. Gulf and Franklin County are both rural 9 communities and we feel that we will be able to complement 10 each other, help each other, offer assistance to each other 11 in the future. And, again, I say it seems to make sense to 12 put Gulf and Franklin Counties together in the same 13 district.</p> <p>14 Thank you for your time and your patience, and we 15 appreciate your hard work.</p> <p>16 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Karen Whaley. Welcome, 17 Ms. Whaley.</p> <p>18 MS. WHALEY: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, members, I'm 19 Karen Whaley, I'm the executive director of Gulf County's 20 Economic Development Council. And I'm here to represent 17 21 of our board members who are unable to be here.</p> <p>22 I'm concerned about the split of communities of like 23 concern and like interests. As rural counties, Gulf and 24 Franklin Counties are like counties sharing the same 25 similar general interests and issues. Gulf and Franklin</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 Center for Training. And one of the advantages or 2 disadvantages of going towards the end is a lot of other 3 people have already said our stuff.</p> <p>4 But I think the issue is that you hear some recurring 5 themes here today. And I would like to share with you an 6 effort that we are launching to engage a broad-based, 7 diverse group of advocacy organizations throughout the 8 state from various political viewpoints and from varying 9 geographic areas in the redistricting process. To that 10 end, we are circulating a draft statement of fairness, and 11 I emphasize draft because it is a work in progress also, 12 that we are asking groups and individuals to respond to and 13 to encourage their respective legislators, be they Democrat 14 or Republican, to adopt these principles.</p> <p>15 I have copies of the statement here for you today. 16 And, again, it's a work in progress. Many of the issues 17 that we've identified have been already addressed by 18 previous speakers. Some of the principles outlined in this 19 statement include the very basic and general issues that 20 have been presented to you here today; such as allowing the 21 public to have meaningful input into the process. And by 22 "meaningful" we mean access to information before decisions 23 are made, and an opportunity for responding to tangible, 24 specific proposals and specific plans before they are voted 25 on.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 It has already been suggested several times, and we 2 would echo that suggestion, that you hold at least a couple 3 of public hearings after you've gathered input and have 4 designed a plan. Hearings that are away from Tallahassee 5 so that more people are able to participate there. That 6 would be very helpful.</p> <p>7 We also echo the concern that you have a few more 8 evening meetings because it is important for working people 9 to have access to all of this.</p> <p>10 Fairness means a process and a plan that takes into 11 consideration the concerns of the state's diverse ethnic 12 and minority communities, it means listening to the public 13 and respecting their sense of communities of interest, 14 taking into consideration areas of concern based on 15 environmental, educational, social service and other 16 policy-related issues.</p> <p>17 Again, we will be working with individuals and 18 organizations throughout the state, encouraging them to 19 participate in each of the public hearings that have been 20 set up and asking for additional ones if they don't feel 21 they are adequate.</p> <p>22 Just to give you a sense, a few of the organizations 23 that have already signed on to this statement of principles 24 and encouraging participation include the Sierra Club, the 25 League of Conservation Voters, the Florida Consumer Action</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 no hearings in those counties which represent almost a 2 third of our largest counties?</p> <p>3 I'm from Broward County, with four of the state's 4 largest cities: Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Pembroke Pines 5 and Coral Springs. Broward is the second largest county in 6 the state. Why is there only one hearing scheduled in this 7 county? Why are there six or seven congressional districts 8 where no public hearings are taking place? We believe it's 9 important to have at least one hearing in every 10 congressional district.</p> <p>11 Again, we believe that access to this process is very 12 important if there is to be meaningful participation in 13 this effort that is so important to all of Florida's 14 residents. After you have had an opportunity to hear from 15 the public, will there be an opportunity for us to respond 16 to what is done with our input? Where will we have an 17 opportunity to respond to something tangible? Will there 18 be public hearings around the state after the preliminary 19 maps are drawn but before they are finalized so that the 20 public can comment on them?</p> <p>21 Florida NOW supports the initial statement on fairness 22 that calls for meaningful public input and access, 23 consideration of the state's diverse ethnic and minority 24 communities as well as other communities of interest. We 25 look forward to working with you throughout the process and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 Network, the National -- the Alliance for Retired 2 Americans, the Florida National Organization for Women, the 3 Human Service Coalition of Miami-Dade, Voices, Farmworker 4 Self-help, SCIU, Florida State Council, to name but a few.</p> <p>5 As Justice Potter Stewart said a half a century ago, 6 fairness is what justice really is. In asking for 7 fairness, we ask for nothing more than justice and we 8 expect nothing less. We look forward to working with you 9 throughout this process in not only adopting the general 10 principles, but on the details as we move forward.</p> <p>11 Thank you. I have got 50 of these.</p> <p>12 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you for appearing. If you 13 would just put these on the end, we'll get staff -- if 14 you'll put them down on the end of this desk, we'll get 15 staff to pass them out.</p> <p>16 MS. WOODALL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.</p> <p>17 SENATOR WEBSTER: Next we have Clarice Pollock.</p> <p>18 MS. POLLOCK: My name is Clarice Pollock and I'm the 19 president of the National Organization for Women here in 20 Florida. We have chapters all over the state and I want it 21 to be possible for the members of our chapters and our 22 at-large members to go to the hearings. So we have some 23 concerns about how the public hearings' locations were 24 determined. Polk, Brevard, Seminole and Pasco Counties are 25 among the 15 largest counties in the state. Why are there</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 throughout the state in what we hope will be a meaningful 2 dialog on how to best represent all of Florida's residents.</p> <p>3 Thank you very much for this opportunity.</p> <p>4 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Ms. Pollock. Linda 5 Merrell, followed by Cheryl Sanders, followed by Barbara 6 DeVane.</p> <p>7 Linda Merrell, welcome to the public hearing.</p> <p>8 MS. MERRELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and 9 distinguished members of the committee. And I, too, will 10 say that I think everything that I'd like to say has 11 already been said so I'll keep it very brief.</p> <p>12 But I represent generally in the state and in many 13 communities children's concerns and issues. And we're 14 going to be working with many of those child advocacy 15 groups because the voice of the children is not heard in 16 this process. And yet your final end product is going to 17 influence the lives and the decisions regarding those 18 children for the next ten years. So it is very, very 19 important. We will be mobilizing that campaign.</p> <p>20 And I also join here with the themes that are being 21 said and generally we are working with the People's 22 Advocacy Center to promote those standards and values of 23 fairness across your entire process. And I think you have 24 heard that reiterated over and over again.</p> <p>25 And we also believe that the eyes and the ears of the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 world will be looking at Florida since we have been in the 2 spotlight recently with the election about how fair your 3 process will be. 4 Access is the issue of the day. And we trust in your 5 integrity, and understand that you will make it a very fair 6 process as far as the public being able to have access 7 hopefully to the transcripts, the recordings, and your 8 information. 9 Finally in following up, I do think that it is very, 10 very important that we have access to you as a body, a 11 decision-making body, once those maps have been drawn. And 12 I think the word of the day is it's going to be all over 13 the map because everybody is drawing maps from what I 14 figured out. But nonetheless, I think it is critically 15 important. 16 And, finally, it is those people who live in the 17 communities who will be the best informed of what their 18 community interest is and how they will be affected by 19 those lines. So we want to assure you that we will work 20 with you, we applaud you. 21 And I'm from Volusia County, but you will see many of 22 us at all of your hearings. But when you come to Daytona, 23 I have a promise. I'm going to get Dave the button man to 24 make you big, red buttons that say, I believe in fairness. 25 Okay? You've got a deal, 50 of them. Thank you very much,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 signed in. If you have not -- if you're not in that list, 2 Ms. Taylor, Atkinson, Ballas, or Holt, and you wish to 3 address this public hearing, please complete a sign-in 4 card. Welcome to the public hearing. 5 MS. TAYLOR: Thank you, and thank you for allowing me 6 to speak. My name is Samantha Taylor and I'm the director 7 of the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce. I'm here today 8 to request that Calhoun and Liberty Counties remain in the 9 same House, Senate and congressional districts. Calhoun 10 and Liberty are sister counties and our county seat -- with 11 our county seats being only 3 miles apart from one another. 12 We have the same social and economic concerns, and 13 whatever affects one county affects the other. Calhoun and 14 Liberty Counties are both agricultural-based, rural 15 communities. And even though we are separated by the 16 beautiful Apalachicola River, we are one and the same. So 17 I'll keep it short and sweet and just say, Please keep 18 Calhoun and Liberty Counties in the same House, Senate and 19 congressional districts. Thank you. 20 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Carol Atkinson. 21 MS. ATKINSON: My name is Carol Atkinson. I'm 22 two-time past chairman of the Bay County Commission. But 23 as a recovering politician I'm here this morning 24 representing the Bay County Chamber of Commerce, the state 25 government and national government committees.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 and good luck. 2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Ms. Merrell. 3 Cheryl Sanders. Welcome to the public hearing. 4 MS. SANDERS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The name is 5 Cheryl Sanders -- 6 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Sanders. 7 MS. SANDERS: -- I am a Franklin County commissioner 8 and have the honor to serve the people of Franklin County. 9 I'm addressing this committee today to let you know that we 10 are very satisfied with our legislative delegation, Senator 11 Al Lawson and Representative Bill Kendrick. 12 For many years in the past before the reapportionment 13 came about many years ago we were separated by the 14 Apalachicola River. Let's not let that happen again. We 15 need to keep Franklin County together. We have similar 16 interests as all the other counties around us. We are 17 being served very well with the way the district is running 18 now, but do not use the Apalachicola River as our boundary, 19 use the county lines. 20 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, ma'am, Ms. Sanders. 21 Thanks you for your service to the community and the state. 22 Barbara DeVane, Barbara DeVane? 23 All right, Samantha Taylor, Samantha Taylor. Ms. 24 Taylor will be followed by Carol Atkinson, followed by Pete 25 Ballas, and Brenda A. Holt is our last person to have</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 I've been involved in the redistricting process since 2 the 1962 redistricting when I worked on my first political 3 campaign in the campaign of a Senator's office who won in 4 1960 and then had to run again in 1962. So I've been 5 around more than a day or two. 6 Bay County is ably represented by Congressmen 7 Scarborough and Boyd, and we cannot speak highly enough of 8 Congressman Boyd. Tyndall Air Force Base is in his 9 district. The military is the second largest economic 10 function in our county, only preceded by tourism. And the 11 military is very close to tourism as far as economic 12 impact. So Congressman Boyd has been invaluable in helping 13 us with Tyndall Air Force Base. 14 I can't speak highly enough about Representatives 15 Kilmer and Bense. Some of you may know that's slightly 16 prejudicial on my part, I've worked in Senator Bense's 17 office off and on since he graduated from college. 18 We are Represented by Senators Peaden, Lawson and 19 Clary, two of whom replaced Pat Thomas and W.D. Childers. 20 We have absolutely no complaints. Senator Lawson has been 21 to our town on many occasions. Senator Peaden has been 22 there, Senator Clary comes often. And Pat Thomas and W.D. 23 Childers considered themselves part Bay Countians. 24 But the untimely death of Dempsey Barron last week 25 brought home to the citizens in Bay County the need to</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p> <p>1 participate in the election of a Senator. Not just to vote 2 for three men or women who no matter how ably they serve us 3 are elected elsewhere. And Bay County would like to place 4 for your consideration just that concept, that the division 5 of Bay County into three Senate districts, which began in 6 1992, end very shortly.</p> <p>7 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.</p> <p>8 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Pete Ballas. 9 Welcome to the hearing. Am I butchering your name?</p> <p>10 MR. BALLAS: Yes, you are. 11 (Laughter.)</p> <p>12 MR. BALLAS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, and ladies 13 and gentlemen. I'm Colonel Pete Ballas, rhymes with 14 Dallas, Texas. I tell people that all the time. 15 I've been a Tallahassee resident for the past 30 16 years, six of them while staff director under 17 Representative Jerry Melvin. And I'm one of over 60,000 18 Leon County residents who live in Senate District 4 19 represented by Senator Dick Mitchell of Jasper. I hear 20 that Senator Dick Mitchell is a great Senator. There is a 21 big difference though in location. We wish he lived in 22 Leon County.</p> <p>23 The committee may not be aware that Senator Al Lawson 24 lives in and represents most of Tallahassee and the 25 surrounding counties and is extremely popular. Now</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p> <p>1 Thank you very much. 2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Mr. Ballas. 3 Brenda Holt. Brenda Holt will be followed by Altha 4 Manning.</p> <p>5 MS. HOLT: Good afternoon. I would like to thank you 6 for letting me speak today. I'm the Democratic chairwoman 7 for Gadsden County. Gadsden County has a very small 8 portion, about 2 percent of its population, that should be 9 brought back into the main population of the county. We 10 believe that we must protect the voting strength of our 11 voters. Gadsden County has a vast, growing population of 12 Hispanic voters, Hispanic population, I'm sorry. And 13 therefore efforts and procedures must be brought in place 14 to encourage them to participate in the electoral process.</p> <p>15 We in Gadsden County do not feel that our district or 16 our county should be split up according to someone else's 17 need. We would like for our county, predominantly Black, 18 growing population of Hispanics, to be kept in an area 19 where we can serve our interests, to help our county, to 20 help a rural county, to help the people of our district.</p> <p>21 Also, we would like for a copy of the proceedings 22 today, video copy of the proceedings today, to be provided 23 for us to purchase in order that we may sit back and study 24 these issues and study the presentations that were made 25 today that affect north Florida. Thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p> <p>1 although I'm a Republican and I like this Senator, we 2 differ occasionally on many things but still I feel like he 3 is my Senator too. And I would like for him to have 4 another Representative very close to him.</p> <p>5 Anybody who looks at current District 4, Senate 6 district, can easily tell that this seat was heavily 7 gerrymandered. Ladies and gentlemen, gerrymandering is 8 almost a sin. It's ugly, it's impractical. You've got to 9 put counties against each other, east to west and south to 10 north, so that we are next to each other rather than 11 divided all over hell and half of Georgia.</p> <p>12 The gerrymandering took place in 1992 and that seat 13 runs from the Atlantic Ocean over to Tallahassee and then 14 down the gulf coast to Crystal River. From a business 15 point of view, that's impractical. From a geographical 16 point of view, that's unnatural.</p> <p>17 I'd like strongly to suggest to the committee that the 18 seat of Florida's capitol, Leon County, be kept within one 19 district. Leon County's population is almost \$240,000 -- 20 240,000 and the Senate seats are about 400,000. If 21 counties in this area were not so split up, then I would 22 believe the district lines could be much cleaner and the 23 district smaller and more compact. Better representation 24 in the Legislature will happen because citizens would know 25 exactly who their representatives are.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p> <p>1 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Altha Manning. 2 Welcome, Ms. Manning.</p> <p>3 MS. MANNING: Good afternoon. Please express my 4 appreciation to Legislator Feeney for holding these 5 hearings throughout the state. I think it is a great move 6 forward.</p> <p>7 I'd like to encourage you to continue and expand your 8 efforts for citizen input throughout the state. In 9 addition to expanding the efforts for citizen input, I 10 would also encourage you to provide opportunities for 11 education. Several speakers before me, and I intentionally 12 waited until the end, talked about having workshops after 13 each one of those cascading levels of providing standards 14 and then after you've drawn the lines.</p> <p>15 So I too encourage you to provide opportunities for 16 our citizens to know more about the process, to understand 17 that process. Part of that might be the use of public TV, 18 educational stations throughout the state, so that 19 providing that kind of information will allow them to be 20 intelligent and to vote more wisely.</p> <p>21 I further encourage you to continue the opportunities 22 for meetings so that people, again, can provide input each 23 step along the way. And I ask that you avoid diluting, 24 diluting minority voting strength.</p> <p>25 Thank you again for that opportunity to talk to you</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p> <p>1 and may you continue with your fairness. I know that this 2 is a political process, it is partisan, so I won't -- by 3 its nature, so I won't expect that you won't do anything 4 that's not partisan or political. But please surprise me. 5 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. Thank you, 6 Ms. Manning. 7 For what purpose, Representative Lee? 8 REPRESENTATIVE LEE: Mr. Chairman, I did not get 9 Ms. Manning's first name nor the county. 10 MS. MANNING: My first name is Altha, A-L-T-H-A, the 11 town west of here, Altha, is named after me. 12 REPRESENTATIVE LEE: What county is that, Ms. Manning? 13 MS. MANNING: Leon, I'm in Leon County, 2607 South 14 Hannon Hill Drive. 15 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Ms. Manning. 16 MS. MANNING: District 9. 17 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Members, that concludes the 18 public testimony for today and what we will do now is to 19 have -- we have time to have some comments by the members. 20 And the way I'd like to do that is to offer the members of 21 the local delegation, Senators Lawson and Mitchell, 22 Representatives Kilmer, Richardson, Ausley and Kendrick 23 first bite at the apple. But as a preface to that I'd like 24 to recognize Senator Webster who has some more detailed 25 information about the FREDs computer program.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p> <p>1 may have possibilities in the infomercial world after the 2 Senate. 3 (Laughter.) 4 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Senator Lawson, do you wish to 5 address the public hearing? You are recognized. 6 SENATOR LAWSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to 7 officially welcome all the members to Tallahassee for the 8 first public hearing. As most of you know, I represent the 9 very Senate district which stretches from Madison to Bay 10 County. And this morning, well I guess this afternoon, 11 this morning and into this afternoon we had a number of 12 officials from several of those counties addressing this 13 committee. 14 The only thing I'd like to represent is that I served 15 on this, served on this committee, that the chairmen take 16 what I consider to be one major consideration when they are 17 conducting the other meetings, and that is that we change 18 the time of the meetings so they reflect -- give the 19 citizens the opportunity to participate. Today 98 percent 20 of my constituents are at work. I've been in contact 21 trying to get the message out through churches and everyone 22 else about the hearings. And every place I travel 23 throughout the district they are very concerned that we are 24 not having these hearings at a time when they are available 25 to attend.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p> <p>1 Senator Webster. 2 SENATOR WEBSTER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have 3 available for each member a CD to take back with you, it is 4 self-loading. Stick it in your PC, and it should pop right 5 up and tell you how to load it up. If you have trouble, 6 there is a FREDs web site that gives you all kinds of help 7 that you can access through the Senate or House web site. 8 And then make sure that your name is checked off 9 because anyone not here we'll be mailing their copies out. 10 So we don't want to mail it -- we'll mail it if you didn't 11 get it, but we do if you didn't. So just make sure they 12 check your name off too before you get your copy. But we 13 have got enough for the members. 14 For those in the audience we do have a limited amount 15 available at 704, Room 704, on a first come, first served 16 basis in the Pepper Building right now for \$20. If you are 17 interested in purchasing it today, you can do that. I'm 18 not sure how many copies we have, but there will be more 19 tomorrow. For those that fill out the order blank that we 20 have available, they will be mailed immediately upon 21 production. So, but there are copies available today. If 22 you would like to get a copy of FREDs today it is \$20, 704 23 Pepper Building. 24 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 25 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Senator. I think you</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p> <p>1 We recognize the fact that these hearings are for the 2 public. There are a lot of elected officials and other 3 constituents out here that represent different groups. But 4 I think the most important group is the group of 5 individuals that are out there at work right now that need 6 to have the opportunity to participate in these hearings. 7 Senator Mitchell is the chair of our local delegation, 8 and I'm sure that what we will try to do is to try to get 9 this message out. And we certainly hope the committee will 10 consider having another public hearing in our particular 11 area at a later time, preferably after 5:00. 12 And that's all that I have to offer. And I want to 13 thank you for the opportunity to speak. 14 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Senator Lawson. 15 Senator Mitchell. 16 SENATOR MITCHELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you 17 for the opportunity to speak. 18 I am extremely pleased by the amount of folks that 19 have come from north Florida, both east and west of 20 Tallahassee and in Tallahassee, and the input that's been 21 provided. As you can tell in north Florida there is a 22 tremendous sense of community. A lot of the comments 23 centered around keeping the agricultural communities 24 together, keeping those with like interests together. 25 And there is a fear that some of the ideas and the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p> <p>1 heritage and input I guess from people out in the 2 agricultural communities will be diluted by putting them in 3 with other larger areas. There seemed also to be a concern 4 about some of the practices in the past that have split 5 counties. I know that some precincts don't make a whole 6 lot of sense to me. But splitting counties offers a great 7 deal more representation to counties then they would if 8 they had one person.</p> <p>9 So I would welcome the opportunity for more input on 10 this issue, as Senator Lawson has suggested that we do have 11 another public hearing for our local delegation to receive 12 more input from citizens as we go along.</p> <p>13 I would be remiss if I didn't speak my mind about 14 something, Mr. Chairman. This is -- obviously none of us 15 have gone through it before. It seems to be a very 16 political process, the different parties looking out for 17 their interests. We don't really bring it up in public, 18 but I guess those who testified know the truth. Perhaps we 19 have our own interest of keeping our seats or keeping our 20 jobs, but if you really look at it, we are only going to be 21 here, if we are lucky enough to be reelected again, just a 22 couple of years.</p> <p>23 So we need to do what's best for the people we 24 represent, truly take their input and draw lines according 25 to the way that they feel would best represent them and put</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p> <p>1 friend of theirs that they get it from a very reliable 2 source that the lines are going to be drawn this way or 3 that way.</p> <p>4 But the truth is we don't know how they are going to 5 be drawn. We have got to go through the process. We want 6 you-all to be a part of it and we highly encourage you to 7 be active with your local delegations, your local county 8 leaders and help us do the right thing for the right 9 reason. Thank you.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Representative Richardson, do 11 you wish to be recognized?</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE RICHARDSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, 13 just to again briefly welcome each of you back to 14 Tallahassee. And those who have come to visit, welcome you 15 to Tallahassee.</p> <p>16 This has been an informative process for me. This is 17 my first time in the Legislature and going through the 18 reapportionment process and I learned a lot already this 19 morning. I guess, Mr. Chairman, the only thing I would 20 suggest is as we move forward with these hearings is that 21 there be clear guidelines for the public so they know 22 exactly what it is they are coming to comment on. I think 23 most of what we heard this morning is just conceptually 24 from those people who spoke what they would like to see in 25 terms of communities of interest and keeping counties</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p> <p>1 our own partisan politics and partisan ideas and our own 2 self-serving purposes aside and really listen to the people 3 and do this the right way. Maybe we can do it this time 4 without it going to the courts. Wouldn't that be nice.</p> <p>5 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>6 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Senator. Those are 7 excellent ideas. And if the local delegation wanted to 8 have a public hearing, that would be a wonderful thing to 9 get public input.</p> <p>10 Now, Representative Kilmer, you are recognized.</p> <p>11 REPRESENTATIVE KILMER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I 12 also would just like to reiterate what my other colleagues 13 have said. This is a very important process we are going 14 through and I think it's very important that the public get 15 involved and give us their input so that we can make sure 16 that this is done as fairly as possible.</p> <p>17 I've been very impressed with the testimony we have 18 had today. You can tell that every speaker did their 19 homework and they came prepared, made very good, very valid 20 points.</p> <p>21 One thing I would like to caution the audience and the 22 public about, there seem to be so many rumors flying 23 around. Everyone will come up with different ideas of how 24 the lines may be drawn or how they would like to have them 25 drawn, and they share it with someone else who tells a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p> <p>1 together. But certainly we know there is a lot more to 2 drawing these lines than that.</p> <p>3 And so I think we need to give the public really 4 general guidelines and as soon as possible provide 5 something in the form of tangible maps that they can in 6 fact react to, and have some idea of where they will be 7 situated or at least contemplated to be situated once we 8 have some drafts of some maps drawn. And at that point I 9 would certainly hope that we would begin this process anew 10 and give particularly the citizens here in Tallahassee an 11 opportunity to have input into how those lines are drawn 12 once we have a draft made.</p> <p>13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>14 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Representative 15 Richardson.</p> <p>16 Representative Ausley, you are recognized.</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE AUSLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And 18 I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you-all. I 19 appreciate the fact that you did let our folks from the 20 local communities and the surrounding areas speak today. 21 We do have some procedural issues that I think we didn't 22 get to and was afraid we would spend our meeting talking 23 about that which is very important and folks wouldn't have 24 a chance to talk.</p> <p>25 I think it's very important that the citizens have an</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 106</p> <p>1 opportunity to be involved in this process every step of 2 the way. I think we've heard that from everyone who spoke 3 today. And I echo the concerns of all of my colleagues and 4 the residents of my community and appreciate the 5 opportunity to be here. And I just, again, urge that the 6 process is fair and that all of us have access to the 7 process at every step of the way.</p> <p>8 Thank you.</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Representative 10 Ausley.</p> <p>11 Representative Kendrick, do you wish to be heard?</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE KENDRICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.</p> <p>13 We are all here and we all have our unique areas that 14 we represent. I think we all understand about protecting 15 each of these unique areas also.</p> <p>16 But I think the real thing that this is going to do 17 that will prove to the Legislature, and the House and the 18 Senate both, is that this is a good time to do a real 19 reality check. This is where the rubber is going to hit 20 the road. This is where we are going to have to deal and 21 listen to people and their issues and their concerns and 22 then see exactly what we're going to do with it.</p> <p>23 I would strongly urge that we consider having the 24 Alachua County meeting there in Gainesville. As I recall 25 the original list did have a meeting there in Gainesville</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 108</p> <p>1 or not the meetings are going to continue as long as there 2 are speakers or how we are going to handle it.</p> <p>3 And I'm just concerned about that because Jacksonville 4 is a large city. And I see that you-all have set the 5 meeting up at WJCT, which is a television station. I want 6 to get input from people that are going to be represented 7 within these districts, and not just leadership but 8 ordinary people. And I think they have a right to say 9 something about how they have been represented up to this 10 point and whether or not they want to continue with that 11 representation or whether or not they want to be expanded, 12 consolidated or whatever their concerns are.</p> <p>13 And we can't get to that if we don't have a set of 14 procedural guidelines that we need to have. I want to hear 15 from the public. I don't want to hear from the business 16 community or the elected officials. We'll hear from them 17 when they are getting ready to run. I want to hear from 18 the average, ordinary citizen. I think if you're going to 19 set up the hearings, we should do it in such a way that 20 those are the people that would have an opportunity to 21 address this community and be able to speak to this 22 committee.</p> <p>23 And I think this committee should give us a set of 24 written guidelines so that we can share those with our 25 constituents as to what the protocol is once they come into</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 107</p> <p>1 with a TBA beside it. I personally, as one of the 2 representatives from that area, I would like to know why we 3 deleted that meeting, if I could at some point in the 4 future.</p> <p>5 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Representative.</p> <p>6 And now I think we -- let's start with the upper 7 House. If the senators would like to be recognized, just 8 indicate that. Senator Holzendorf.</p> <p>9 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: Thank you. Representative Byrd, 10 I think you cut my mike off on purpose.</p> <p>11 (Laughter.)</p> <p>12 SENATOR HOLZENDORF: No, Mr. Chairman, I want to talk 13 about what I initially attempted to do in the beginning. 14 When we started the meeting I would have hoped that each 15 member of this committee would have at least been given an 16 opportunity to say hello or to greet the people or to make 17 a statement. If not every member of the committee, 18 especially the members of the delegation of the area that 19 is represented.</p> <p>20 I'm also concerned about procedure. I understand that 21 we're coming into these meetings, but there should be a 22 procedural set of guidelines for people to adhere to. And 23 I think we need to publish that before we have the 24 meetings. We need to know who can speak, we need to know 25 what you want them to speak to, and we need to know whether</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 109</p> <p>1 the committee room, and what kind of information they are 2 looking to give, and what kind they are looking to receive.</p> <p>3 And that's the kind of information I would like to 4 have prior to you-all coming to Duval County. If you would 5 just outline so that I can give it to my constituents and 6 have them prepared to come to the committee to address the 7 issues that we won't address so that we come up with a 8 genuine redistricting plan.</p> <p>9 I learned about this meeting through a flyer. We 10 should not do that. We've not had an organizational 11 meeting where we could talk about how we want the hearings 12 to be held. That's something we need to do. I know 13 everybody has some summer plans, and whatever. But we need 14 a committee meeting so that we can set up procedures as to 15 how these hearings are going to be handled.</p> <p>16 We're in Leon County today and we are going to Duval 17 County, but pretty soon you're going to be moving into some 18 very heavily populated counties. And I think you're going 19 to have to have some very clear procedural guidelines as to 20 how we are going to handle those hearings. That's all I 21 have to say. Thank you.</p> <p>22 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Senator. 23 Senator Klein.</p> <p>24 SENATOR KLEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. 25 Again, Mr. Chair, and Cochair, I appreciate the</p>

1 opportunity to bring the issues up that I started at the
2 beginning of the meeting and it all had to do with the
3 process in making sure we start this off on the right foot
4 so that we as a joint committee can work well together,
5 people feel like there is a fairness that works within the
6 committee process, all of our joint interest is to have the
7 public input.

8 But at the same time, we want to make sure that there
9 is a process which is fair that permeates the entire
10 process, whether it is the public input process, or the
11 committee process or the development of legislation as
12 well.

13 And, for example, as a suggestion, Mr. Chairman, I
14 would suggest that each meeting that we have we allow for,
15 and even notice it this way, that we allow for the first
16 half hour just for committee business, so to speak.

17 In other words, if there are issues that we want to
18 address, to discuss, to follow up from this meeting that's
19 occurring today in Jacksonville, that the first 30 minutes
20 is just set aside for us to take of our own business,
21 whether it's procedural issues that hopefully will be
22 addressed in writing so the public knows what they are, and
23 would want to comment on them. I don't want to go to the
24 next meeting and raise questions about this, and, you know,
25 not have the opportunity to talk about them. Let's do

1 hearings themselves, the locations, the times, be addressed
2 in writing to the members and to the public so they will
3 have plenty of time to bring it up at the Jacksonville
4 meeting if there is a problem.

5 I will tell you in Palm Beach County, which is a very
6 large county, the largest geographic county, there is one
7 hearing. I'm the chairman of the 16-member delegation.
8 Nobody contacted my office or any of the Democrats or
9 Republicans, it is not a partisan thing, to say, What is
10 the best location? What's the best available place at what
11 time which would maximize the turnout in Palm Beach County?
12 It ends up it is not in a good place. It's removed, it is
13 not near a public transit, our main thoroughfare is under
14 construction right now. It's going to be a big problem.

15 But, again, that kind of communication between local
16 counties and the delegations and this committee would be
17 helpful.

18 And I guess the last thing to mention is the issue of
19 language. There are many parts of the state that have
20 folks that speak different languages and we do want to make
21 sure -- I know we have a very large Haitian population in
22 Palm Beach County, a large Spanish-speaking population.
23 And it's important that we do have translators available so
24 that people can feel they can communicate their message and
25 we want to make sure we get their message with a good

1 that, but at the same time let's not take up the public's
2 time in terms of them waiting to give their input.

3 So if we have a meeting at 5:00, we'll start the
4 public meeting at 5:30, the whole meeting is public but in
5 terms of public input at 5:30, give us a chance to take the
6 first 30 minutes, work through whatever administrative
7 issues we need to deal with so that everyone feels like the
8 process is working fairly.

9 I'm a big supporter of technology. I filed
10 legislation every year in this body pushing technology and
11 how important technology is. And this is marvelous
12 technology we are coming forward with. At the same time,
13 though, I don't think we should underestimate the
14 importance of face-to-face contact and face-to-face input
15 of the public to our committee.

16 And having the public come forward, whether it is
17 before the plans are drawn or after the plans are drawn to
18 be specific, after plans are being tossed around the
19 Legislature for us to be able to go back to the public,
20 back to the communities, not just expecting them to travel
21 from Miami or Fort Myers up to Tallahassee, go back to them
22 to get their specific input on why a community of interest
23 is being drawn apart and why it may be a problem.

24 I would, again, just like to suggest that whatever
25 questions or issues that have been raised today on the

1 translation.

2 Those are some suggestions, and I appreciate the
3 opportunity to give you those suggestions.

4 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Senator. We are --
5 our staff is taking down what you are saying. So be
6 assured of that.

7 I made a mistake, I failed to recognize Representative
8 Stansel, who is a member of the delegation. I'd like to go
9 to him and then go back to the Senators.

10 REPRESENTATIVE STANSEL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
11 want to thank a few constituents of mine that came today.
12 Most of them were public officials. We did have one
13 private citizen or two to speak from our district.

14 And I can see I'm quite sure that our area is going to
15 be really took care of real well during this
16 reapportionment process because you couldn't have picked a
17 better part of the map on the front of it. You put
18 Gilchrist and Suwannee Counties on the map.

19 (Laughter.)

20 REPRESENTATIVE STANSEL: Sometimes we think we are in
21 the 100-mile triangle. We are 100 miles from Tallahassee,
22 100 miles from Jacksonville, and 100 miles from
23 Gainesville, or Ocala where the hearings are going to be
24 heard. I put in a phone call to request that one be heard
25 maybe in Lake City at the I-75/I-10 corridor, but it didn't

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 114</p> <p>1 materialize. But as bad or as good as that, I'm 100 miles 2 away from all the big newspapers also so that they don't 3 bother us too bad. 4 But I do want you to be considerate of some issues, 5 one was mentioned today of real small, partial districts. 6 I think Mr. May might have been a little mistaken. I have 7 eight voters in Dixie County, two votes. In two elections 8 there's two people voted; one voted for me, and one for my 9 opponent. 10 (Laughter.) 11 REPRESENTATIVE STANSEL: But I treat Dixie County just 12 like I do the counties that I represent 100 percent, and 13 it's very, very difficult to do that, to be spread out that 14 thin for that number of constituents. 15 So those are some things that I think I really would 16 appreciate it if the committee would take into 17 consideration. And, you know, I don't know if I heard the 18 term used this morning, it is one I use quite frequently in 19 the Legislature, just use common sense. That's all we have 20 to do, just common sense. 21 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 22 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Representative 23 Stansel. 24 Now I've got Senator Wasserman-Shultz, Senator Jones, 25 do you-all want to -- Senator Miller. Let's go ahead and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 116</p> <p>1 more than one public hearing there. 2 Additionally, Gainesville was mentioned as a place 3 that should have a public hearing. North central Florida 4 is smack in the middle of the state. It is not really 5 close to a lot of places that we're having public hearings. 6 So, I mean, there's about seven congressional 7 districts across the state that there is no public hearing 8 scheduled. So if one of the two chairmen could respond to 9 the possibility of expanding hearings to make this process 10 as open and fair as possible, which I recognize you had 11 endeavored to do, but we have got to make sure that these 12 hearings aren't so far flung that we make them inaccessible 13 to a lot of people. 14 SENATOR WEBSTER: I think -- I don't know what to tell 15 you other than if you look at the record from last time, by 16 the time we got to hearing number 20 or so, there were 17 seven, eight, six, five people showing up for hearings out 18 of 160 people in the Legislature. Most of those were 19 delegation members, some of which didn't even serve on the 20 committee. So what we tried to do was balance that. 21 It is one thing to have the public show up, it is 22 another thing if there is no member there to hear, or very 23 few, what good does that do. So we tried to balance it. 24 If you can focus on one and say, Okay, here is one. And we 25 even made an effort to mail out to the senators a check-off</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 115</p> <p>1 line it up, other senators that wish to be heard? Other 2 Senators? Representative Smith. Any other Senators? 3 Senator Wasserman-Shultz. 4 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SHULTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 5 Mr. Chairman, a number of people speaking here today 6 mentioned the concerns that I'm going to raise now. And I 7 actually, maybe Chairman Webster or Chairman Byrd, if we 8 can get a response to it. 9 A lot of the people here today talked about fairness. 10 And in terms of the structure of where the hearings have 11 been set, you have got places like Polk, Brevard, Seminole 12 and Pasco, which are among the 15 largest counties in the 13 state where there is no public hearing. 14 For example, Broward County is the second largest 15 county in the state, there is one public hearing. Broward 16 is an extremely diverse population, you have a lot of 17 elderly people, the meeting is at 5:00. I'm concerned that 18 if you don't have more than one hearing in Broward County, 19 we have people who are elderly to the point where they 20 can't drive at night. How are we going to get them to the 21 hearings? They're going to need and want to provide input 22 to us. 23 And in addition to that, we don't even have a location 24 set in Broward County yet. Certainly with the second 25 largest county in Florida being Broward, there should be</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 117</p> <p>1 so that we could make certain that there is going to be an 2 adequate number of senators at each public hearing so that 3 when someone does show up to give their testimony, there is 4 someone to hear it. 5 So we tried to have a balance. And we tried to strike 6 a balance. Could we have 40 hearings? Yes, we could. We 7 could meet all the time. Would there be members showing 8 up? I doubt it. And that's from going through two 9 different reapportionments and knowing at the end very few 10 showed up. 11 So if we have a limited number, and yet those focus 12 limited has a maximum number of membership there and a 13 maximum number of people get there because they know that's 14 their shot or their only chance, that seemed to be good. 15 If there is other considerations or we can get a huge 16 number of people signing up to come to other committees, 17 that might be something to talk about, but I don't think 18 that's going to happen. That's the problem we ran into. 19 So what we tried to do is strike a balance between the 20 number of hearings and the availability of the membership 21 to have the maximum amount there. 22 SENATOR WASSERMAN-SHULTZ: I'm not trying to debate 23 you, but, for example, in the areas where there is a larger 24 population and a larger urban area, you have a delegation 25 in Broward with 18 members. Most of the members are on the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 118</p> <p>1 reapportionment committee, many of them are.</p> <p>2 I can assure you that in Broward County you'll have a</p> <p>3 large complement of delegation members to turn out to both</p> <p>4 public hearings, if we had two there. Alachua County has</p> <p>5 enough legislators with a large population who need and</p> <p>6 want to provide input.</p> <p>7 In the areas that are feeling a little neglected,</p> <p>8 maybe you could look at the possibility of adding hearings</p> <p>9 in those places because I think if you get a commitment</p> <p>10 from the members to come, then the public will feel like</p> <p>11 they have been included.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: I think that you need to advise</p> <p>13 the Council. And if you would give some suggestions on how</p> <p>14 you do that, we're flexible. You know, it needs to be the</p> <p>15 best series of public hearings we can possibly have so</p> <p>16 we're committed to that.</p> <p>17 Senator Jones.</p> <p>18 SENATOR JONES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a</p> <p>19 question. Basically, we have here today a court reporter,</p> <p>20 I'm sure we are being recorded audio-wise, and there may be</p> <p>21 a video recording of this hearing as well. We've also had</p> <p>22 some discussion, which I also share the same concern, about</p> <p>23 whether or not we are having enough hearings and then the</p> <p>24 timing of a couple of those hearings. Some of them are in</p> <p>25 the evening, but then some of them are not. And it's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 120</p> <p>1 it for all of the hearings, ten years ago.</p> <p>2 And I think that if we made it a policy at this time</p> <p>3 to both summarize the hearings and make available to</p> <p>4 members who wish to have them, the videotapings of these</p> <p>5 hearings, that that would be a benefit to the membership so</p> <p>6 that we would have the best opportunity to draw districts</p> <p>7 that actually reflect, to the extent we can determine the</p> <p>8 sentiments of the communities that we visit.</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: The short answer is yes, that's</p> <p>10 our plan. We have a court reporter, I'm sure there is a</p> <p>11 video, an audio. With the advent of the Worldwide Web</p> <p>12 we'll probably be able to put the audio on the Worldwide</p> <p>13 Web, we even have web cast, live web cast, of some of the</p> <p>14 meetings. . So we will make every effort to summarize the</p> <p>15 testimony. And this is your process. If you have</p> <p>16 suggestions about the process, that's exactly what you need</p> <p>17 to make it better.</p> <p>18 Senator Miller.</p> <p>19 SENATOR MILLER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not</p> <p>20 going to reiterate and harp on the statements that were</p> <p>21 made by the senators previous to me. I just think they</p> <p>22 raised some excellent questions, and we need to take those</p> <p>23 into consideration. Even if it gets to the point that we</p> <p>24 need to add more meetings, we at least give the people in</p> <p>25 those areas that were mentioned here today, Gainesville,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 119</p> <p>1 easier for people to make those hearings, of course, if it</p> <p>2 is not during the normal workday.</p> <p>3 And also there are a couple of areas of the state that</p> <p>4 are fairly significant that are not being included at this</p> <p>5 point in time for hearings.</p> <p>6 It seems to me that we'll have the same thing as</p> <p>7 Senator Webster indicated this year that we did a couple of</p> <p>8 years ago, or ten years ago, and I was on reapportionment</p> <p>9 then too, and made just about all the hearings, and I</p> <p>10 intend to try to do the same thing this time, too.</p> <p>11 But there is a trail off on the participation of the</p> <p>12 membership. And while I acknowledge that it's better to</p> <p>13 have more participation, I would say in my mind, especially</p> <p>14 having gone to some where there were only two or three</p> <p>15 members present, it's probably more important to give the</p> <p>16 public an opportunity to have their say.</p> <p>17 What I want to suggest and ask some questions, is</p> <p>18 there a way that we're going to take this information from</p> <p>19 the court reporter or the audio tapes or the videos and</p> <p>20 summarize it in a couple of pages of who the witnesses were</p> <p>21 and what the substance of their comments were so that the</p> <p>22 members who perhaps don't attend all the hearings will have</p> <p>23 a sense of what the testimony was about at the other</p> <p>24 hearings? I think it would be worthwhile for us to do</p> <p>25 that. We did a little bit of that, although we didn't do</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 121</p> <p>1 the central Florida area of Polk, and Pasco. We'll have</p> <p>2 one meeting in Pinellas which I think is about the fifth,</p> <p>3 only one meeting. If we have to add more meetings, even</p> <p>4 though we have less members show up, it still gives the</p> <p>5 public the opportunity to come to us and say something.</p> <p>6 I think that we need to address the issue that the</p> <p>7 state president of NOW came forward and talked about what</p> <p>8 we're going to do with the public when the maps are drawn.</p> <p>9 Are we going back to them one more time and allow them to</p> <p>10 give input on what they will actually see on those maps? I</p> <p>11 think that's something we need to take into consideration.</p> <p>12 This will affect their lives for ten years and I think they</p> <p>13 should have the utmost opportunity to have that input.</p> <p>14 I think one of the things that we need to also look</p> <p>15 at, Mr. Chairman, above and beyond those things are some</p> <p>16 guidelines and rules that have to be put into place for</p> <p>17 this committee. We came here today, a lot of us, only</p> <p>18 handed a notice that there's a meeting in Tallahassee</p> <p>19 scheduled from 10:00 to 1:00 as a public hearing. But what</p> <p>20 would the public hearing entail? What would the public</p> <p>21 understand they need to do and we as committee members,</p> <p>22 what would we need to do?</p> <p>23 There needs to be something in place and there is</p> <p>24 nothing there. That's a little confusing not only to us as</p> <p>25 members, we've been around the process, some of us, for a</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 122</p> <p>1 long time, but the public who is not familiar with this 2 process doesn't know what those guidelines and rules are. 3 So I think we need to put something in place probably 4 before we get into the real public hearings when we start 5 in Duval County. I think that's something we need to look 6 at. 7 The other aspect of it is there were a lot of 8 questions that needed to be asked today that we weren't 9 able to get to be asked to today, and we weren't able to 10 address them. And maybe those questions, I'm about to ask 11 my question now that I have on my mind, but maybe those 12 questions must be asked to set the tone of this entire 13 process as we go into looking at the legislative session in 14 January. So I think these questions can be asked that the 15 differences that's going to be between both sides of the 16 aisle can be alleviated to a certain point. 17 We heard some of the people out here today saying that 18 they want to take the politics out of redistricting. It is 19 going to be awfully difficult to take the politics out, but 20 I think that one of the things we can do is have a more 21 collegial aspect about this whole process is to answer some 22 of the questions that some of us have, being as fair as 23 possible with this entire process. And then maybe the 24 public can trust those of us that have been elected to 25 represent them in putting this entire plan together.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 124</p> <p>1 If you schedule one in Gainesville for a weekend 2 football game, you know we're going to get a good turnout. 3 We have the largest university in the state located there, 4 the largest law school, the largest medical school, we have 5 got a major research center and we are not having a 6 hearing. We are the only daily newspaper for several 7 surrounding counties and we are not having a hearing there. 8 Originally we were scheduled to be there, and I hope we 9 will be considered. I know that our local delegation is 10 going to there. Both the city and the county are planning 11 to pass resolutions inviting us to be there. So I hope 12 that would be considered. 13 With all due respect, I believe that it is important 14 that north central Florida be adequately represented in 15 this process and Gainesville is the center of essentially a 16 nine-county area. Ocala and Jacksonville are the two 17 closest and they are really seen as different. They are in 18 different districts. And we have a large delegation that 19 intersects with Alachua County. 20 So I know this is a daunting task, I don't envy what 21 you have done in the scheduling. I recognize that no 22 matter, somebody is going to squeak and I happen to be the 23 one squeaking here because Gainesville is the city that 24 seems to be on the short end. 25 There's about 235,000 people in Alachua County and the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 123</p> <p>1 If we have to have another meeting to answer those 2 questions before we get into the redistricting process, I 3 think that needs to be done. But I know that there are 4 some real important questions that some of us have on our 5 minds that we need to have addressed before we go on. 6 Those are my comments, I hope that we can do that. This 7 does not need to be a lowdown, dirty and nasty fight like 8 it was in 1992. I wasn't a member, I came in '92, but I 9 paid close attention to it. But we need to make sure that 10 we represent ourselves properly before the public and 11 that's my input. 12 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Senator Miller. And 13 I would encourage you to submit those questions to us. If 14 they are legal, we will have our legal counsel look at 15 them. If they are procedural, we'll look at that, too. 16 But we welcome your input on your questions. I'm glad you 17 came with all your questions. 18 Senator Smith. 19 REPRESENTATIVE SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My 20 remarks are expected and anticipated and will be short. I 21 think that Gainesville needs to be on the list. I can't 22 imagine, with all due respect to Senator Webster, that we 23 expect a better legislative turnout in Wauchula and La 24 Belle than we did in Gainesville. It isn't going to 25 happen.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 125</p> <p>1 immediate surrounding area that are active politically, 2 they are active participants, they have been here today and 3 requested you to come there. And as I look around, I know 4 that the other major university sites are represented in 5 this process, but the largest one is not. 6 And obviously I'm parochial in this request, but I 7 hope you will consider moving these hearings to Gainesville 8 because I believe that Gainesville will have a good 9 turnout. You'll have a good turnout publicly, you'll have 10 a good turnout in terms of legislative representation, and 11 that they ought to be part of this process. 12 Thank you so much for hearing me. 13 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Senator Smith. 14 Now, members of the House that wish to be heard. 15 Let's see, Wilson, Representative Wilson, you are 16 recognized. 17 REPRESENTATIVE WILSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I don't 18 want to sound like a broken record, but I think it would be 19 only fair for us to go back to what was promised when we 20 started out with the redistricting reapportionment 21 committee. 22 And I did receive a handout that said this would be 23 the public hearing scheduled, and there would be between 30 24 to 35 statewide meetings. There would be no more than a 25 75-mile travel distance from any Florida city, and the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 126</p> <p>1 focus would be on big areas and those with significant 2 growth since the last census. And I think this was 3 distributed to us at the committee meeting prior to the 4 release of the census count.</p> <p>5 And I think to be fair because we have 3 million more 6 people now in the state of Florida, it would be only fair 7 to have more public hearings. And especially when you come 8 to Miami, the district that I represent, the meetings 9 should start at 6:00.</p> <p>10 And because I have not had any experience with 11 redistricting at all, I did watch CNN to view conferences 12 and to view public hearings as they were being orchestrated 13 across the nation. And there were comments coming from the 14 audience, and members of the committee were responding to 15 the comments. And my question today is the people that I 16 represent will have specific questions and they will come 17 to the hearing to ask those questions so that they can go 18 about their business of trying to come up with 19 recommendations so that when it's time for the next cycle 20 of hearings or if they want to come to Tallahassee to tweak 21 the process or make amendments to the bill, they would want 22 to receive some sort of response at that time.</p> <p>23 Would that be possible? Or would they be mailed a 24 response or how do we respond to these constituents who 25 have specific questions regarding redistricting at the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 128</p> <p>1 their districts to look like?</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you. I think that 3 obviously the technology is now available. We'll have the 4 most high-tech redistricting in the history of the state 5 and we'll be the leader in the United States. So I assume 6 that as soon as people are up and running with their 7 software that our doors would be open to accept submissions 8 and our plan is those planned submissions, whether they are 9 total plans or partial plans, would be posted on the 10 Internet and be the subject of great debate of the day. 11 I'm very excited about the process. I hope that answers 12 your question.</p> <p>13 If you have any specific questions, legal, procedural, 14 please get in touch with me or our staff and we'll make 15 sure they are answered as quickly as possible. Thank you.</p> <p>16 Representative Sobel.</p> <p>17 REPRESENTATIVE SOBEL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There 18 was impressive public input today with important questions 19 that I want to reiterate. Most of my questions will deal 20 with standards.</p> <p>21 What are the standards or principles that the 22 Legislature will be guided by in drawing the lines for the 23 various districts? Contiguity is the only criterion 24 required by the Florida Constitution, but what about the 25 principles recommended by the Constitution Revision</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 127</p> <p>1 hearings?</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Well we certainly invite your 3 suggestions on how to do that. These are your areas. But 4 we do plan to communicate with those that have signed cards 5 today. We'll have an Internet web site and have the 6 ability for people to at a minimum E-mail us and also to 7 make submissions of plans that they have drawn from FREDs 8 2000. So if you can think of other ways to handle 9 communications with your constituents, that would be great 10 advice to the Council for the committee. Thank you, 11 Representative Wilson.</p> <p>12 Representative Weissman.</p> <p>13 REPRESENTATIVE WEISSMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 14 There are three recurring questions that we heard today. 15 There have been reports that the legislative leadership 16 already has maps and plans. And why were no proposed maps 17 shared with the public before any of the hearings were held 18 so that the public could see them and comment on them?</p> <p>19 Secondly, will there be public hearings after the 20 preliminary maps are made public so that the public can 21 comment before they are finalized? And, finally, without 22 the data from the census and the software program that we 23 just received, the public could not draw their own maps. 24 And when will the public have the opportunity to present 25 those maps to us so that we can see what they would like</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 129</p> <p>1 Commission?</p> <p>2 My second question is how will you ensure that the 3 population of each district is as nearly equal as 4 practicable?</p> <p>5 The third question is what are the deviations in 6 population that the Legislature will be applying for in 7 congressional districts?</p> <p>8 And fourthly, what are the deviations in population 9 that the Legislature will be applying for in the 10 legislative districts?</p> <p>11 And that's my questions. Thank you.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Representative Sobel. 13 Those are important questions and we'll definitely address 14 those. I know that as in '92, our House counsel and I'm 15 sure the Senate counsel will prepare a legal primer from A 16 to Z, Alpha to Omega, of redistricting law for your bedtime 17 reading. So we'll certainly have that information 18 available in the near future. And if you have a specific 19 burning legal question, please submit it to me or to the 20 Senate and we'll answer that. Thank you.</p> <p>21 Representative Ryan.</p> <p>22 REPRESENTATIVE RYAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've 23 seen significant changes in the state since 1990, '92. In 24 addition to changes in population and changes in population 25 concentrations we've seen a great increase in the diversity</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 130</p> <p>1 of our people. And with that, I think it's a signal to 2 this Legislature that we also need a change and change from 3 the policies that we utilized in the past for redistricting 4 and reapportionment.</p> <p>5 The law has changed and we must change. This last 6 session I filed a bill that we would place in statute -- 7 requesting we place in statute objective criteria. I saw a 8 commitment from this Legislature that we would consider and 9 that we would commit ourselves to utilizing criteria 10 regarding communities of interest and compactness and 11 preserving political subdivisions in our deliberations. 12 And that bill did not go anywhere, but we do have an 13 opportunity this year to take this subjective criteria and 14 utilize it in drawing lines.</p> <p>15 This is what we've heard from the public. What's 16 important is that, number one, communities of interest with 17 like interests on environmental issues, on education, on 18 health care, on economic opportunities, that they be held 19 together so that they have the greatest amount of political 20 influence.</p> <p>21 On political subdivisions, certainly it is critical 22 that small counties whenever possible remain intact. And 23 this is also true for large counties, that if possible that 24 we could keep these legislative seats within a large 25 county.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 132</p> <p>1 that in some of the meetings when we had 30 meetings 2 scheduled that you had as few as six people that may attend 3 the meeting. If we are finding that 100 people or 150 4 people are coming to these meetings, I hope that you will 5 remain open to considering some additional meeting sites 6 and some meeting times. I recognize that you can't take 7 politics out of redistricting, but I ask that you just make 8 an effort to take the public interest above politics on 9 this critical issue. Thank you.</p> <p>10 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Representative Ryan. 11 Representative Cusack.</p> <p>12 REPRESENTATIVE CUSACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I 13 have been enlightened today and I'm so pleased to be a part 14 of this process.</p> <p>15 I'd like to know about some guidelines for submitting 16 proposals. And where do you submit your guidelines or your 17 proposals. And is there a time limit or a deadline for 18 submitting proposed plans. I think it's important that the 19 citizens in this state are given some direction as to when 20 they need to submit their proposals and what criteria and 21 procedure will be necessary in submitting those proposals 22 so that they will be considered by this body.</p> <p>23 So, if possible, I would like to see, maybe on the 24 Internet something that you would have guidelines for 25 proposals that we will be considering in the future. Thank</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 131</p> <p>1 We talked about compactness. This is a very, very 2 important concept to avoid racial gerrymandering and to 3 avoid political gerrymandering. And racial gerrymandering 4 can occur on a couple of different fronts. One, by packing 5 districts with minorities, and another one is by 6 fragmenting. If we will agree to compactness as an issue 7 that is relevant to our discussions, we're moving away from 8 a political decision and more towards a decision for the 9 benefit of the people.</p> <p>10 There is another issue that was not discussed that we 11 need to give careful consideration to and I hope that we 12 will hear from our legal counsel on that, and this is the 13 census undercount. It's been reported that in the state of 14 Florida the census undercounted Floridians by 200,000 15 people. And these concentrations are most prevalent in the 16 minority communities. We need to take a look at that. 17 This needs to affect our decision on the deviation in 18 minority communities based upon this undercount.</p> <p>19 But overall I think as we go through this process, 20 Mr. Chairman, and I trust that you will be flexible, 21 flexible as to the hours of meetings, and that you will 22 adjust your hearing schedule if you find that in fact there 23 is through the process a great deal of public 24 participation.</p> <p>25 And in discussions from Senator Webster, he stated</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 133</p> <p>1 you.</p> <p>2 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Representative. And 3 we will definitely act on that. I think that's a good 4 point. We're striving to be as technologically advanced as 5 we can and to be as open as we can and to have as much 6 public participation as we possibly can. We both share 7 those goals so I thank you for those comments.</p> <p>8 Are there other House members? Representative Smith.</p> <p>9 REPRESENTATIVE SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.</p> <p>10 Just a quick question. When our attorney was speaking 11 at the beginning of this session, he talked about how the 12 state of Florida because of our five counties that are 13 subject to the Voting Rights Act, we must have preclearance 14 by the Justice Department. And the attorney also spoke 15 about the packing and retrogression of minority districts. 16 But I didn't really hear a true concept of how we are going 17 to ensure that we do comply with the Voting Rights Act. In 18 particular, how will the plans be drawn not to fragment or 19 pack minority districts? And do we have something in place 20 to ensure that we comply with the Voting Rights Act of 21 1965.</p> <p>22 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Thank you, Representative Smith. 23 This is the first day in a long process. We feel the most 24 important thing is to hear from the public and make sure 25 that we travel the state and hear from as many people as we</p>

1 can. We intend to have the most open process, the most
2 fair process and the most legal process. And we know this
3 is a strange mixture of politics and law, but we will have
4 a legal plan also.

5 So we are going to do everything in our power to
6 comply with the Constitution of the state of Florida as
7 well as the Federal Constitution and the Federal Voting
8 Rights Act. So we're committed to that and I can assure
9 you that we will have an open process and a fair process
10 and a legal process.

11 Any other members?

12 (No response.)

13 REPRESENTATIVE BYRD: Well, we'll see you on August
14 the 6th in Jacksonville at 6:00 p.m. and then in Ocala at
15 1:30 p.m. on the 7th of August. Thank you.

16 (Hearing adjourned at 1:20 p.m.)
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 CERTIFICATE

2 STATE OF FLORIDA:

3 COUNTY OF LEON:

4 I, KRISTEN L. BENTLEY, Court Reporter, certify that I
5 was authorized to and did stenographically report the foregoing
6 proceedings and that the transcript is a true and complete
7 record of my stenographic notes.

8 DATED this _____ day of _____, 2001.
9

10 KRISTEN L. BENTLEY
11 Court Reporter
12 Division of Administrative Hearings
13 The DeSoto Building
14 1230 Apalachee Parkway
15 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3060
16 (850) 488-9675 Suncom 278-9675
17 Fax Filing (850) 921-6847
18 www.doah.state.fl.us
19
20
21
22
23
24
25